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SUPERSOCCER

AUSTRALIA'S BEST SELLING FOOTBALL WEEKLY

THE ROAD TO TOKYO: CENTRE PAGES

INTER STATE CLUBS JOIN PREMIER QUEUE

BY BRUCE CAMPBELL

PETER Gray tends to call a spade a spade, and the straight shooter is seething after the climax to the inaugural NSW Premier League has gone virtually unnoticed in the game's inner circles.

Speaking from Coffs Harbour where the NSWSF President was supporting the Socceroos victorious World Cup campaign he told of his frustration at the apparent slow motion delay in taking the game forward in this country.

"I can't understand what the problem in Australian soccer is," he said.

"Anyone who saw just how successful the Premier League Grand Final was will know what the answer is.

"I am not having a shot at the NSL, far from it, but we have clubs queuing up to join the Premier League."

Gray has revealed that in addition to a string of New South Wales clubs wanting to join the summer league he has been approached by two states—both wanting a slice of the action.

He added tongue-in-cheek: "Soccer Australia doesn't have to look much further for a second division, they already have it and it is called the NSL."

Gray has for some time been pushing the barrow out for a second division to be created, and believes that promotion and relegation is the answer to most of the game's ills—at least on the playing field.

He has also revealed that his federation is pushing ahead with the concept of a national club championship.

"We would like to have a state league's club championship played on similar lines to the national junior titles, over a week. That looks like coming off. We also have interest from two clubs in another state who wish to join the Premier League and one other state who wants to see just how it is all coming together.

"I believe that in the end we could have an elite level competition in NSW which would have the best clubs in the state involved in a professional league of eight to ten teams.

"But there has to be promotion and relegation from whatever format we have, I have always been a great supporter of that concept.

"We're very lucky in that NSW already has the top two leagues in Australia, the Premier League in summer and the Super League in winter.

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES: The NSW Premier League champions have set the pace, a pace which has attracted the attention of other clubs throughout Australia. Now Peter Gray wants the NSL to move a lot faster to match the initiative shown by the NSWSF.

"The Super League has got off to a fantastic start and there have been some excellent crowds as well as a really good standard of play.

"Soccer Australia say that they don't have time to look at a second division but it is here already.

"This concept needs to be considered immediately.

"The football fans of this country deserve a bit of understanding and it is they who want to see this kind of format introduced."

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FIFA stunned by Ellis Park disaster

FIFA officials have said they are stunned and horrified by the stampede which left 43 people dead at a soccer match in South Africa last week.

"FIFA learnt with great distress about the tragedy that occurred at the Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg on Wednesday when Orlando Pirates played against their premier league rivals Kaizer Chiefs," soccer's world governing body said in a statement.

FIFA President Joseph Blatter and General Secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen sent a joint letter of condolence to Molefi Oliphant, the President of the South African Football Association (SAFA).

"The FIFA family and we were stunned and horrified to hear of the terrible accident that occurred at Ellis Park. It was indeed a very sad day for our sport," the letter said.

"Our thoughts and prayers dwell on the innocent victims of this disaster and the many families and friends who must suffer such cruel bereavement and grief," it added.

"May we also convey our profoundest condolences to you and your colleagues for this devastating blow to South African football and wish you fortitude in the days ahead.

"Please also express our message of sympathy to the bereaved families."

Blatter said he did not want to make any comment about the potential consequences of the disaster for South Africa's plans to host the 2010 World Cup.

Although the country's bid to stage the 2006 World Cup failed last year when it lost a ballot by one vote to Germany, FIFA have said they are committed to holding the 2010 tournament on the African continent.

South Africa are the strong favourites to host the event but Blatter said it was not an appropriate time to discuss the issue.

"We must have the decency to bury the dead first," Blatter said.

"Priority then must be to obtain complete and exhaustive findings on the causes of this latest tragedy in our game so that lessons can be drawn for the future.

"Football must do everything in its power that such disasters do not occur again."

The issue of security at matches will also be on the agenda at the next meeting of FIFA's Executive Committee and the Extraordinary FIFA Congress due to be held in July in Buenos Aires.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) has also faxed a letter of condolence to the SAFA.

"We hope that together with government authorities and security officials they will be able to avoid such tragedies in the future," CAF secretary-general Mustapha Fahmy said.

"We are very sorry."

TIME IS ON THE WING

TIME is slipping away for entries to the 2001 Kanga Cup, in Canberra in July (8-15).

Since 1993 the Kanga Cup, an international youth soccer tournament, has been an annual event in Canberra.

With the philosophy of "Uniting the Youth of the World through Football" the 2000 Kanga Cup hosted over 150 teams, with a third of the entries from abroad.

The 2001 Kanga Cup is expected to be bigger with teams already confirmed from the USA, Italy, NZ, NSW, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT.

Age groups for competition are; Males: Under 24, Under 17, Under 15 down to Under 11. Females: Under 24, Under 19, Under 16, Under 124, Under 12

The matches will be played at a number of venues over Canberra, including some under lights, and the finals will be played at the Australian Institute of Sport facility at Bruce. Besides the soccer there is ample opportunity for visitors to take in some of Canberra's sights, including the newly opened National Museum.

Entry to the tournament is AUD$350 per team plus AUD$40 per player, coach and manager participation fee.

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Confederations decide qualifying set-up

INDIVIDUAL soccer confederations will continue to organise their own qualifying tournaments despite Australia's record-breaking 31-0 defeat of American Samoa, FIFA has said.

"It is up to each confederation to choose how they want to organise their World Cup qualifying competitions, it is not FIFA's responsibility to tell them how to do it," FIFA director of communications Keith Cooper said.

But he added that FIFA would be happy to talk with Oceania if the confederation wanted them to get involved.

Confusion had surrounded the result of Wednesday's Oceania zone World Cup qualifier before Soccer Australia confirmed on Thursday the final score was 31-0.

"It's obvious that a match ending 31-0 doesn't do any favour to anybody really," Cooper said.

"FIFA's position has always been that weaker countries can improve by playing stronger countries but there does seem to be a huge gulf in class in Oceania."

Wednesday's result is an international record score, beating the previous mark set on Monday when Australia beat Tonga 22-0 in their first match of the tournament.

Although American Samoa were forced to field a weakened team against Australia because senior players were ineligible, Cooper said world soccer's governing body would be willing to discuss future qualifying tournaments in the region.

"If Oceania want to involve FIFA in any future discussion about their competition we would be happy to become involved but it is up to Oceania to, as it were, scratch their own heads if they need to reconsider."

And Australian coach Frank Farina has continued to be involved in a war of words with officials from all sides of the globe despite his team's singular success.

Oceania soccer chief Basil Scarsella said Farina should concentrate on coaching instead of criticising administrative decisions.

Farina called for the format of the Oceania zone group one World Cup qualifiers to be changed after Australia beat Tonga 22-0 on Monday.

He said the result was a disgrace and embarrassing.

Australia went on to set a new world record on Wednesday with their 31-0 win over American Samoa.

Scarsella said: "FIFA is not worried about what Farina thinks is a lack of competition in the region.

"I suggest he concentrates on coaching the Australian team rather than worrying about the administration of soccer in the Oceania region," the former Soccer Australian chairman added.

Scarsella said the Pacific island nations deserved to play Australia just like world minnows played against European nations.

And American Samoa were trying to come to terms on Thursday with the devastating experience of picking the ball out of their goal 31 times.

"The boys were in shock. They're just not used to this kind of international play," AS head of delegation Tony Langkilde said.

Langkilde said a big defeat had been expected because his team had been recruited at the last minute from local high schools.

"They may not have taken it so hard because of how young they are, but for us we're taking it hard," he said.

"We have one 30-year-old and the rest are 20 and under, including three 15-year-olds."

All the pre-match prayers and folk singing from the deeply religious team could not save them from the slaughter but AS's preparations for their World Cup debut can hardly be believed.

Ranked 203rd and last by world governing body FIFA, AS selected a squad which trained together for six weeks.

Officials were then stunned to be told by FIFA less than a month before the tournament that 18 of their top players were not eligible because they didn't have American passports, Langkilde said.

"Our team was put together in a matter of two weeks," he said.

"We had to replace the whole team we'd worked on for six months.

"We dropped about 18 players and we had to scrounge around and get to the high schools to get players.

"We didn't have time to order boots for the boys before we left.

"We had to buy them in Coffs Harbour after a nine-hour flight and an eight-hour bus ride from Sydney airport."

Even worse, members of their under-20 team were not available for selection because of study commitments.

On the eve of AS's first match, on April 7 against Fiji, four more players were withdrawn because it was ruled they were ineligible under a grandfather clause.

"It was pretty hard for the team because that was the backbone of our side, those four experienced players. It was very hard (to re-focus)," Langkilde said.

Fiji beat AS 13-0 then Samoa beat the debutants 8-0 before Australia put themselves on the world map with their record score.

"We came to this tournament to learn and this is an eye-opener for us," Langkilde said.

Cosmos launches appeal against its non ranking

CANBERRA Cosmos lodged an appeal with Soccer Australia late last week in the fight to keep the club in the NSL for next season.

Earlier this month SA deemed both Cosmos and Eastern Pride as non-viable clubs for the upcoming 2001-2002 season starting in October, where a 15-club NSL will be restructured to 12.

Cosmos has spent an exhausting period considering SA's review committee's decision about the future status of the club.

In a statement last week the club said it wanted to explain to the SA appeal board "the factual and legal mistakes which the club believes have been made".

The club was stunned the hearing had been scheduled for only two hours, in Melbourne, yesterday (Tuesday).

"Cosmos feels that preparation time of less than one working day (due to Easter break) is extremely unfair, especially considering that Soccer Australia has had over three months to consider the club's application, and has refused to consider additional information."

The club's lawyers will ask SA for a longer appeal period rather than having the matter heard so quickly.

In the meantime, the club's lawyers have requested material from Soccer Australia relating to its constitution, statutory records, board meetings, and the review committee's consideration of Cosmos' application for a ranking.

Each NSL club had to be ranked to continue in the NSL.

"Not only is a direct and hard hitting approach important for the defence of our interests, but it is also a signal of our resolve in this matter," Cosmos chairman, Danny Moulis, said.

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NSW Super League

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(1ST, U21, U18)

Sat 21-Apr Fraser Park 7:00PM 5:00PM 3:00PM
Fraser Park Jets v AC United

Sun 22-Apr Jensen Park 6:00PM 4:00PM 2:00PM
Bankstown City Lions v Manly Warringah Dolphins

Sat 21-Apr Nineveh Field 7:00PM 5:00PM 3:00PM
Fairfield Bulls v Macarthur Rams

Sun 22-Apr Arlington Oval 3:00PM 1:00PM 11:00AM
Dulwich Hill v Rockdale City Suns

Sun 22-Apr St George Stadium 3:00PM 1:00PM 11:00AM
Hurstville City Minotaurs v Hajduk Wanderers

Sun 22-Apr Hammondville Oval 3:00PM 1:00PM 11:00AM
M.S.C Liverpool v Stanmore Hawks

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Back in the right frame

By Frank Risorto

GEORGE Souris believes the tough draw Wollongong Wolves have leading into the finals can only benefit the side. Wollongong face an away trip to both Auckland and Northern Spirit finishing with a home game to Adelaide City.

"It will do us good to have these tough games," he says, "and have us in good stead for the finals. You look at sides who go into the finals with easier games and they sometimes get knocked out straight away. These games will hopefully toughen us up for the big games and they'll be no push over."

Souris believes the Wolves 3-1 win over Sydney Olympic was very important.

"We really needed that win against Olympic and it probably helped us psychologically," he says. "After dominating games against Adelaide City and South Melbourne we failed to capitalise on our chances. Maybe those games will cost us in the end but we have ourselves in a good position to go for the top two."

Now in his fourth season with Wollongong, Souris believes it would mean a great deal for the club to win back-to-back Championships.

"It would be just fantastic for this club to win another NSL Championship ," he says. "On a personal level I would love to win another Championship but it would really put the club in a good position and consolidate Wollongong as a great team. But we still have work to do and we have to keep our minds on the job."

You could excuse Souris for having his mind on other things. He is heading to Spain in July for the World Club Championships.

"We are trying to put that at the back of our minds because we want to try and win the Championship again," he said. "It will be good experience when the time comes but for now we just have our minds on the NSL season."

Souris, part of a three man Wollongong defence with Ben Blake and Alvin Ceccoli, singles out one Wolves player as their unsung hero.

"David Huxley has been brilliant in the midfield," he says. "He does all the work for the midfield and goes unnoticed a lot of time and works very hard. We have played well over the past few weeks and haven't got the results. Hopefully that result against Olympic will put us back in the right frame of mind."

Waiting to consolidate Power position

PARRAMATTA Power's Michael Santalab believes the season is over for his club in terms of finals aspirations but the players are still giving their best.

"We have missed out on a lot of opportunities throughout the season," he says.

"But we are still giving our best to finish on a high note."

At one stage of the season the Power were in good shape in third spot on the ladder behind South Melbourne and Wollongong but are now in the bottom half of the table.

The reason for the reversal of form is something Santalab can't put his finger on.

"The season has been divided into three parts I think," he says.

"At the start of the season we were inconsistent but had some good results.

"Then we were strong and went through that run of six or seven matches undefeated and were near the top of the table.

"And once we lost one game we went through a spell of inconsistency similar to what we are going through now.

"It's pretty disappointing because we started so strong and we had a chance to be in the finals.

"But we are still giving our best in the remaining games."

PARRAMATTA POWER'S MICHAEL SANTALAB

Playing for Parramatta in a full time basis is something Santalab enjoys after previously experiencing full time football with the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

"I'm used to being full time after playing like that in Canberra but I like doing this," he says.

"A few of the others had not been full time before and it takes some time to get the hang of things.

"You find that you also improve yourself as a player and that can only be a good thing."

Off contract at the end of the season, Santalab still has a new contract to play for.

"The club and I haven't discussed it yet but all the players have to play at our best to show we deserve a spot in the team," he says.

Santalab has played with the Young Socceroos and still wants to play for the senior side but is realistic about his chances.

"It is an ambition of mine to play for the full side and I think you would be crazy if you didn't want too," he says.

"But there're some big players in front of me so I don't think it will happen soon.

"I would still like to go overseas if that is possible.

"In the pre-season I had an operation on both my knees to clean out some fluid so I was a bit behind everybody in terms of fitness.

"I'm just happy to be playing and my main goal is to just consolidate my position at Parramatta Power and in the National Soccer League."

NSW SUPER LEAGUE SOCCER

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Kresimir Marusic looks to future after Olympic

By Frank Risorto

KRESEMIR Marusic could be considered one of the best players to ever play in the National Soccer League in the last decade.

Marusic arrived in Australia in 1995 as a guest player for Melbourne Knights.

But different to other guest players like Ian Rush or Peter Beardsley, he came back.

Moving clubs and injuries haven't helped his cause but when on the field, he could do damage to any side.

After playing out the last ten games of the season for the Knights, Marusic returned to Croatia.

Back in Croatia he was at a pre season tournament where he ran into Branko Culina (who was on a post season tour with Sydney United) who he knew from his time in Australia.

"I saw Branko and thought I would say hello and we got talking," he says.

"He then asked me if I was playing and said if I didn't get a team he would like me to come to Sydney United.

"I wanted to see if I could still play in Croatia and if I didn't get a contract I would think about coming back to Australia.

"After two or three months I heard nothing so he called and asked if I wanted to come to Sydney United."

In his first full season he went on to win the Warren Medal for player's player of the year.

He since has played with Carlton, Northern Spirit and, after brief spell in Belgium, he returned to play with Sydney Olympic and his old friend Culina.

Playing with so many clubs in a short space of time could well have affected his on-field performances but Marusic believes its had both an up and down side.

"Well, the Sydney United year was good and you could not have been at a better club, I enjoyed myself there," he says.

KRESEMIR MARUSIC is rated by many experts as the best import for some years. The classy midfielder has had a star-studded career in Australia with Melbourne Knights, Carlton, Sydney United, Northern Spirit and now Sydney Olympic. Out of contract at the end of the year, he is summing up his options—and may still return overseas for another crack at European football.

"The thing is that you don't know what will happen in football so it could be a good or a bad thing to change clubs.

"You change clubs for the on-field game.

"I was happy at United but you have to look at the club and think where the club is going and then move where you think it will give you the best opportunity to win things.

"Then I found myself at Carlton and playing in front of one thousand people.

"And you are getting paid well but realise you have made a mistake.

"As for playing football and enjoying it, my best year was at Northern Spirit.

"Playing in front 15 thousand people really pushes you onto play well.

"And if you asked me I don't thing I played a bad game that year at home because you loved playing in front of all those people."

With the changes that Soccer Australia are making to the NSL, Marusic believes the league needs stability and consistency rather then changes every year.

"Who knows what happens, it is always changing," he says.

"Look at the Spirit they're a good example.

"A couple of years ago they were a great thing and all of a sudden they're doing nothing.

"It's very hard to tell.

"They want to get rid of teams but who says that in some time the clubs they leave will do good.

"There will always be two or three big clubs and if they think that getting rid of teams will do this they'll probably be wrong.

"If you look around the leagues in the world whether it be France, Germany or Italy there are always two or three teams at the top.

"You need to have smaller clubs in the league because a lot of younger players develop and come through these clubs.

"But for the sake of football in Australia I hope what they want to do works.

"I really do.

"I just hope they leave the best 12 clubs in the league and the clubs they leave in do a good job.

"But why not just go to eight or ten, no matter what they do there will always be some club who wants to come in."

Marusic is now 31 and is at a crossroads in his career.

This is his last year on contract with Sydney Olympic and he won't be pushed into any decision just yet.

He feels he still has some options available.

"I would like to if it is possible to go back to play in Croatia," Marusic said.

"If not I would also like to stay here in Australia and keep playing football.

"Staying at Olympic would be good, I really like it here but you have to look at the whole picture.

"I have probably spent the best days of my soccer career here.

"And I might be in a better financial position if go elsewhere, but I don't know yet, I will wait and see what happens."

Playing at Sydney United and Sydney Olympic under Culina has given Marusic a respect for the coach he describes as 'one of the best'.

"To be honest I have been at a lot of clubs in Croatia and Australia," he said.

"I find him to be one of the best I've played under in both countries.

"To be a good coach you need to have that knowledge and it's great playing under him."

It seems Marusic is content with life and football in Australia and if things don't go his way back in Croatia he would love to stay and continue playing in Australia.

"I just don't know what will happen as yet," he says.

"But I enjoy playing here and playing at Olympic.

"If I continue to be happy here then I see no problem in staying.

"All these good goals you score and good games you play if they make other people happy, then that makes me happy and that's what you play football for."

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ILLAWARRA SOCCER BEAT

Guido looking for Championship with Lions

CONISTON striker Anthony Guido believes the Wollongong club can come of age this season and genuinely push for the Illawarra Premier League Championship.

The 24-year-old is in his first season at Coniston Lions after transferring from Kemblawarra in the off-season.

He has had no problem settling at the club despite their off field dramas of the first few weeks when ex-coach Jimmy Makowski quit with only one week until the new season started.

"I have fitted in quite well because I knew a lot of the players from when we played with Wollongong White Eagles," he says.

"So that definitely helped me on the field.

"As for off the field, when the coach left it didn't help.

"Looking back now it was probably a good thing and we have done well since.

"It's a good club to play for and we really only have one thing in mind and that's to win the Championship.

"On a personal level I would just like to help the side do that.

"If I could do that then I would be happy because I think we're capable of it."

Three games into the season Coniston sit in the top of the table and Guido is pleased with their performances so far.

"We have gone really well so far," he says.

"The whole side has played well and every thing has worked out well.

"It's good to get amongst the goals early and it does good for your confidence as well.

"We have been playing well as a side and everybody has performed well and that's the pressure we now have.

"There's not a squad of 11 anymore it's now 16.

"And that's a good problem we have where everybody has to perform because if they don't, well their spot in the side is under threat."

"But it's hard to pin point a single player who has done well, because we have all played well.

"I think we don't have any real weakness in the side with the size of the squad we have.

"That's the most pleasing aspect of the season so far.

"We have all performed as a team and that shows we all want one thing and that's a Championship and hopefully it will come this year."

Balgownie take Bonnie Lassie

IN ILLAWARRA women's action the pre-season Bonnie Lassie tournament was held recently at Barrack Heights Sports Field with 10 teams entered.

The final after an eventful day of play was played between Balgownie Babs and South Coast United.

Balgownie won the match 1-0.

Looking for a mascot, and ambrose players

SHELLHARBOUR City is active off the field.

After an encouraging draw against one of the competition favourites, the soccer club is calling up supporters, friends and golf fans to enter in its forthcoming 4-person– Ambrose Event on Sunday 29th April at Shellharbour Golf Club.

Please contact Secretary CRAIG HANNAN phone 42572128 or put your name down at the Golf club. Entry fee is $30.- includes breakfast, green fees, golf ball, prizes. lunch and drinks, tee-off 7.30 AM.

Shellharbour is also looking for a mascot.

They are asking young boys and girls to apply to be their first grade mascot for the season.

If you are older than 4 and younger than 10 send a message to the Secretary, P.O.Box 152, Oak Flats NSW 2529.

Bruce Campbell

TALKING FOOTBALL

EVERYBODY has an inspiration in football and it doesn't make any difference whether you are a coach, administrator, player or journalist.

In fact, most of us have at one time or another been a player.

What effect does anyone's inspiration have on them, how does it cause them to react, how does it make any real difference?

Who knows, I never profess to be anything of a psychologist, I just try to get on with the job of editing *SuperSoccer*.

But I did pause for thought last weekend when the passing of my all-time icon was announced.

Sometime ago Rale Rasic turned the microphone on me during a radio interview when he asked me to name my all-time great players.

I nominated only those I had seen in the flesh.

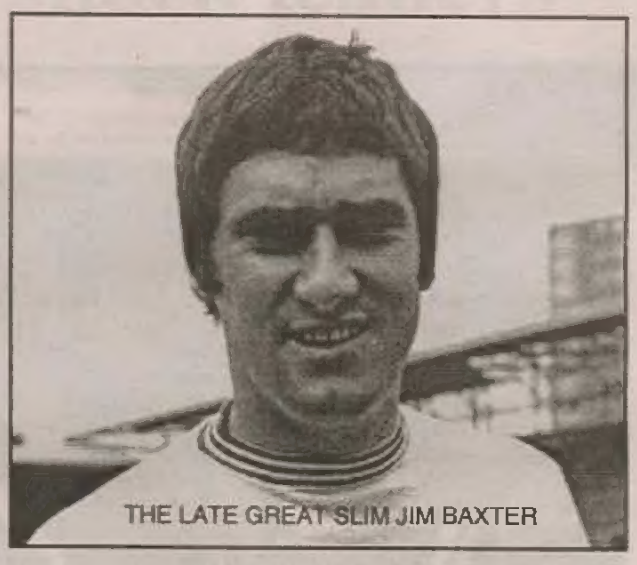
I had to say when naming them that I didn't think they would know who Jim Baxter was, but Rasic, ever a student of the world game and in particular Scottish football knew his stuff.

Baxter had played for the FIFA World XI against England and then went back to Wembley a few years later to personal destroy the newly crowned world champions in an exhibition of total football which has rarely been seen before or since.

Slim Jim Baxter was the greatest midfielder I have ever seen, bar none.

But his inspiration to me was in the way he played the game; grace, artistry—and cheek, all rolled into one.

Off the field he was a man's man and if that makes him a dinosaur in this modern age when a bit of after-match boozing is frowned upon then I don't mind sharing that cage with him.



THE LATE GREAT SLIM JIM BAXTER

Football has gone through a lot of social changes in the last two decades, not all of them for the better.

There are still those who want to see the great game distance itself from its roots as a working man's sport.

Maybe Baxter will go down as one of the great heroes of that bygone era, time will tell.

But for me he played football the way I like it, as an entertainment, an art form.

That has coloured my thinking during the time of my involvement with this sport, whether it be on the field or off it with a pen in my hand.

Slim Jim, you were the best.

WHAT does Frank Farina have to do to get a fair hearing?

Is it his fault that Oceania has lumped three pathetically minuscule island nations in with Fiji and Australia?

Why shouldn't he pick his best team, after all Fiji have already proven the downfall of one Australian coach?

But there are just too many coincidences in all of this campaign for the press not to be a tad suspicious of just what has been going on.

For the record I don't care whether Australia batters their opposition senseless.

I believe, that within reason and the rules of the game, Australia should pick its best side—always.

I have never been of the opinion that someone should be blooded into an Australian team because the opposition is weak.

For me there is no better way to blood a player than in a winning team, and one which is winning well.

Bring the new players on for the last 15 minutes or just have them in the training squad, that is plenty of experience to test their mettle.

But I can't help agreeing with Coventry City manager Gordon Strachan who has questioned the reasons for bringing John Aloisi and leaving behind Paul Okon.

Strachan has cited the relationship with Terry Venables as the reason but I think he is way off the mark here.

Paul Okon is so heavily linked with Marconi, as is Mark Schwarzer, that you might be excused for being as cynical as me and looking closer to home for the reason.

If Farina isn't going to bring Okon back then he should take the captaincy off him.

Australian football fans deserve to see their captain in every game.

But if he isn't going to bring back Okon and Schwarzer then he should have left the others behind also—unless their clubs were happy with the exercise.

Now that Aloisi has been injured we can expect to hear a bit more of this situation.

And on the case of the missing Ned Zelic, just how much does the rift have to do with the fact that Okon was preferred by Farina as Socceroo captain?

Farina, too has a strong Marconi link.

Coincidences, maybe—but didn't Ned Zelic at one time 'sign' for Marconi before moving to Sydney Olympic?

If my memory is good then Ned was even pictured in a Sydney newspaper wearing a Marconi shirt.

Coincidences?

Perhaps.

Inconsistencies?

Definitely.

MACARTHUR RAMS: the club on the south western fringes of Sydney is producing a string of good players.

Parramatta Power setting the standard for youth

By Frank Risorto

PARRAMATTA Power will have five players representing Australia at the Under 17s and Under 20s World Cup later this year.

Ahmad Elrich and Mark Byrnes will be going to Argentina for the Under 20s World Cup in June-July while Parramatta Youth League players Pedj Bojic, Brett Holman and Michael Brown will take part in the Under 17s World Cup in Trinidad and Tobago in September.

Mark Byrnes, currently on loan to Austrian club Salzburg, will be making his second appearance at a World Cup.

Byrnes captained the Under 17s Australian side to the finals two years ago when they lost to Brazil in the final on penalties.

Elrich, Bojic, Brown and Holman will be making their debut at a World Cup.

Power are the only NSL club sending five players to represent Australia at both levels.

They have several young players making a name for themselves in their first team, like Brett Holman, Luke Roodenburg, Brendon Santalab, Michael Brown and Ahmad Elrich.

The club has set the standard in the NSL for young players.

Parramatta Power First Team coach and Football Manager David Mitchell explains their youth scheme and how these players from all over NSW end up at the club.

"We have talent scouts all over the place always looking for young players," says Mitchell.

"When they see a player they like, they recommend them to me and we just keep our eye on them for a while.

"We might go and watch them for five or six weeks as well and once we think they are ready we'll approach them."

At the start of this season Parramatta introduced a scholarship program.

The players picked train with the first team and are considered full time apprentices.

This year's apprentice players were Pedge Bojic, Michael Brown, Matthew Biggins, Paul Down, Peter Ganaghan, Brett Holman, John Kelso, Brendon Santalab and Luke Roodenburg.

They also maintain a TAFE component as well as their on-field activities.

"They join the first team in training and other things with the first team," says Mitchell.

THE Parramatta Power facilities are rated the best in Australian soccer—and their well-appointed fitness rooms even house a table tennis table, seen here modeled by coach Dave Mitchell. This year the Sydney club has introduced a string of talented youngsters into first team football.

"We also put the youth side against the first team on several occasions and give them something to play for, not just training each week and doing the same thing all the time.

"They are then familiar with the first team and the systems we play."

Mitchell has no problem with promoting youngsters as this season he's used nearly all his apprentices in the first side.

Whether it be because of injury or suspension they have made their impact on the first team and Mitchell believes their personality goes a long way in deciding how their career will unfold.

"We do look for special kids who have that character and determination," he says.

"When they do get their chance in the first team you see how they can do and hope they do good.

"The character of the younger guys comes through because you see how well they want to do.

"If they are not ready then you can give them more time but most of them are ready to take the chance as soon as possible.

"Now that we are out of the race for the finals I intend to use a lot of my younger players and that will be a good indication of if they are ready or not.

"But that's the problem with setting up this club and a lot of people forget this.

"We've only been going for two years so we had to start from scratch.

"We didn't have a big set up and have had to recruit all these players ourselves.

"But I think we have done a good job with these young players.

"Parramatta deliberately brought forward these players a year younger.

"It started off slow but it's starting to pay off dividends now.

"And if these players stick together who knows what potential is there for this club to be one of the best in Australia."

With Parramatta Power being one of the few true full time clubs in Australia, Mitchell believes this gives the players a good idea of what to expect if they go overseas.

"It took a lot of the younger guys a while to playing full time at first," says Mitchell.

"But now we have overcome a lot of these problems and they are used to the idea.

"You have to have the patience and bide your time and if you do so then the results will come."

Grant Lee, former Socceroo and NSL player, is Youth Team coach and Head of the Centre of Excellence at Parramatta.

Lee was a co-ordinator of coaching at the NSW Soccer Federation and then moved onto the Australian Institute of Sport where he spent two years before accepting the job at Parramatta.

Lee is now responsible for the development of the younger players at Parramatta

He believes younger players Parramatta are given the best opportunity at Parramatta on and off the field.

"If a young player looked at the set-up and facilities here they would be very impressed," he says.

"We give them training in fitness as well as mentally and can really concentrate on their game, trying to get rid of their weaknesses and help them improve as a player in all aspects.

"We have the training grounds here, the gym and pool.

"We are very lucky in that all our facilities are all within a short walk.

"I have tried to introduce a AIS programme into a club structure and I don't think any club could do this like we have.

"But there's no guarantee in football and we have to give the players the best opportunity off the field as well and we feel it's important to give them an education as well.

"They attend TAFE and do subjects like Business Management and Studies, Financial Planning, Health and Nutrition.

"But at the moment we have had six players from this season's group make their first team debut so it's definitely promising to see these players go into the firs team.

"If this type of player keeps coming through, the future is looking good for the club."

YOUTH LEAGUE
with Laki Konistis

THE RAMS AGAIN HEAVILY RELIANT ON LOCAL TALENT
One of the most competitive clubs in this year's Pepsi Super Youth and Cadet League competitions, irrespective of last week's results against the Marconi Stallions, must surely be the Macarthur Rams.

And one impressive aspect of this proud club is its heavy reliance upon local talent which is prevalent in all the teams, including its coaching and managerial ranks.

UNDER 11s:
Five games, four wins and 12 points.

The youngest Rams are under the careful coaching instruction of local schoolteacher Rob Berger, who I am told is not that much taller than his young charges himself, and of course manager Alan Gadd who still plays locally for the Narellan Rangers, are proving formidable opponents in this category.

All players are standing out in a well-disciplined side made up of entirely local Under 10s competition players whose success at the moment is attributable to their 'never-say-die' attitude.

UNDER 12s:
According to the club's Youth Convenor Bill Rooney: "We are all very proud of both our Cadets teams this year.

"Both sides rely heavily on local kids and the Under 12s are also a good side".

Players to watch out for include their 'speedster' Nathan Abinya and of course Thomas Berger (that surname obviously breeds soccer players for Macarthur).

UDNER 13s:
After conceding a goal very early in the peace last weekend against Marconi, the Rams had many chances to draw level but in the end had to be content with staying behind at the break.

Even after the break when both sides opened up, and again 2-3 behind late in the second half, the Rams had their chance to draw level but failed to capitalise on their opportunities eventually going down 4-2.

Coached by Bill Garriock, father of Matildas player Heather Garriock, the Rams will win many games and players to look out for include Jamel Sadiki, Josh Ford and keeper Marc Bryce.

UNDER 14s:
The Rams again conceded an early goal to Marconi who this time proved just too fast, too quick and too big, running out convincing winners by 3-0.

To their credit the Rams never gave up against a better opponent - something which is a credit to coach Mark Williams who has been with the club for ten years.

Goalkeeper Luke Barron is going well at present and his goal-kicks in particular just have to be seen to be believed, along with Evan Berger who is a part of the Parramatta Power squad.

UNDER 15s:
According to Bill Rooney " a slow start, because of bad luck, bad finishing and injuries" just about sums up the club's Under 15s at the moment.

It was again Marconi who ran out convincing 5-0 winners as the Rams are surely rueing the loss of NSW player Mitchell Thompson through injury at present.

John Bulger, Daniel Hoare and Joe Cortisono are the players to look out for once the club's wounded return to the fold.

UNDER 17s:
In one of the closest contests all day it was again Marconi, courtesy of goal in each half (2-0) who ran away with the points again. "Our 17s are a young squad, but they are full of heart, and again reliant on local talent. Even against Marconi the boys delivered the goods. Look out for them in the coming weeks", said Bill Rooney.

THIS WEEKEND:
The Macarthur Rams should be eager to get back into the winning list quickly.

But their trip north to Newcastle will not be an easy one.

As for the club's Cadets sides, they have the bye this weekend which will give them a further weekend in which to also regroup and prepare for their next contest in two weeks time against the Parramatta Eagles, again at Lynwood Park.

Spirit to wield the axe

COACH Mick Hickman (above) will wield a cleanout broom through the Northern Spirit ranks at season end in an attempt to restore the club as a top contender in the national soccer league.

The club last week appointed former Socceroo Jean-Paul de Marigny as assistant coach for the rest of this season and for a further two seasons, the same period as Hickman.

Hickman took control from Graham Arnold midway through the current season and believes a player clean-out and recruitment is necessary to boost the club.

He has told some players they have the remaining three rounds to prove they are worth retaining.

"The players know we need changes for next season if we are to get Northern Spirit moving forward," Hickman said.

"Spirit is currently 12th on the league table and players realise we need help to reach the levels of teams like South Melbourne, Perth Glory, Sydney Olympic and the Wollongong Wolves.

"We've been looking at players from other clubs and will be offering contracts."

Hickman has the full backing of the Northern Spirit Football Club Board in reshaping the squad.

Club general manager Colin Mitchell confirmed resources had been made available to strengthen the squad.

And Australian Joeys under-17 star Matthew Hunter made his national soccer league debut for Northern Spirit against Parramatta Power at North Sydney Oval on Friday night.

Hunter, a regular member of the Northern Spirit youth team, won a place on the bench after impressing coach Mick Hickman.

"Matty Hunter is a good young player and he deserves a chance in the top grade," Hickman said.

"I watch him train and I have seen him play for the youth team and I went to Canberra to watch the Joeys play and he impressed me.

"There is no doubting the boy has some ability and I want to see him get out there and develop that talent so he can progress to the first team on a regular basis."

The other selection change saw Tony Perinich starting his first game for Northern Spirit this season.

Perinich has come off the bench seven times throughout the 2000-01 season but Hickman has elevated him to the starting side for the local derby with Parramatta Power.

Pride problems force match postponement

CONTINUING money problems forced the postponement of the national league match last Saturday between Eastern Pride and Wollongong.

The decision, announced by Soccer Australia, follows the uncertainty surrounding Eastern Pride player payments which have not been met despite assurances by the club.

Lack of payments has resulted in the players making themselves unavailable for selection.

The postponement will also ensure the outcome of placings in the league Top Six is not unduly influenced by Eastern Pride playing the match with an under-strength team.

Pride fielded a reserves team last week against Canberra who finished easy 7-1 winners.

Soccer Australia will consider a formal request from Wollongong that the match be viewed as having been forfeited by Eastern Pride.

MITRE $900 SPOT THE BALL WON

LAST week a *SuperSoccer* reader from the Central Coast won the Mitre sponsored SPOT THE BALL COMPETITION.

The prize stood at $900—and a late Easter bunny cheque is now on its way.

"The Spot The Ball" competition has been a big success," says Duntroon Publishing's Susan Campbell.

"We have literally had hundreds of entries from all over the state.

"Many have been regulars while some just try their luck and that is it.

"We will also be giving out a quantity of Mitre soccer balls shortly thanks to the generous sponsorship of the leading football brand.

"Sometime in the near future we will re-visit the competition, with the likelihood that we will present an expanded competition page.

"My thanks to everyone who has tried their luck—and congratulations to the winner."

PICTURED: past Spot The Balls including last week's correct answer.

FIFA Confederations Cup schedule

GROUP A
1. France
2. South Korea
3. Mexico
4. Australia

Group A fixtures (all kick-off times GMT):

May 30	France v South Korea (0800, Taegu, Korea)
May 30	Mexico v Australia (1030, Suwon, Korea)
June 1	Australia v France (0800, Taegu)
June 1	South Korea v Mexico (1030, Ulsan, Korea)
June 3	France v Mexico (1030, Ulsan)
June 3	South Korea v Australia (1030, Suwon)

GROUP B
1. Brazil
2. Cameroon
3. Japan
4. Canada

Group B fixtures:

May 31	Brazil v Cameroon (0800, Ibaraki, Japan)
May 31	Japan v Canada (1030, Niigata, Japan)
June 2	Canada v Brazil (0800, Ibaraki)
June 2	Cameroon v Japan (1030, Niigata)
June 4	Brazil v Japan (1030, Ibaraki)
June 4	Cameroon v Canada (1030, Niigata)

Semi-finals
June 7 B winner v A 2nd place (0800, Yokohama, Japan)
June 7 A winner v B 2nd place (1100, Suwon)

3rd place play-off
June 9 (1000, Ulsan)

Final
June 10 (1000, Yokohama)

Playing all year round is just a bonus for Luksic

By Frank Risorto

PLAYING for both Leichhardt Tigers in the Premier League and Bankstown City in the Super League gives Richard Luksic a foot in both doors.

The 23-year-old defender has been a regular and crowd favorite at Bankstown for five seasons and spent last season on loan in the Premier League with Leichhardt.

That is something Luksic would like to make permanent.

"I really enjoyed playing there and in the Premier League," says Luksic.

"I had a few niggling injuries at the start of the season but I overcome that and once I did so I thought I did quite well."

Luksic has played in Bankstown's opening games and has liked what he has seen, despite their inconsistent start.

"The win against Fairfield was really good, we played quite well," he says.

"It's good to get some points in the opening first few rounds.

"Rockdale played all over us in the second game and I thought we were lucky to get a draw.

"So far Dulwich Hill, Rockdale and Fairfield look the sides to beat.

"But if we are up around the top half of the table come finals time that would be great.

"I have been trying to win this thing for five years now and would love to do it this year.

"We have a good coach in Claudio Canosa, a good set up at the club and everybody wants to win.

"It's a young squad but we are looking to get some players from the Premier League now that it's over.

"So that would strengthen our squad because we are a very young team."

Former NSL player Claudio Canosa is Bankstown City coach and Luksic is happy with the the role of the former NSL defender.

"He's really good because he brings that player's perspective to the game and he knows the standard, we need to win," adds Luksic.

"The Premier League clubs are probably more professional off the field.

"Other than that the players are pretty much the same that's why you see a lot of players from the Premier League in the Super League.

"That's the bonus you get, to play football all year round."

Western Sydney Lions aiming to exploit potential

By Frank Risorto

WESTERN Sydney Lions coach Michael Mamoo is confident the club is on the verge of success.

The Lions reached both the last two Grand Finals and Mamoo believes the club can now put that behind them.

"We run a very professional set up for a club this size," Mamoo says.

"The club would love to get promoted to the Super League if that's possible.

"We play at a beautiful ground and have just had lights put in so we have got no problem with night games.

"We do have a lot of potential here and I want to exploit that.

"Now we are looking to get a social club behind us so we are not going from year to year but are in a stable position for the next five years.

"Two years ago this club was in Division Four and now we are in Division Two so we have made a lot of ground."

Starting off the season with a win, loss and draw Mamoo hopes the Lions can get better as the season goes on.

"It's been a good start but we have been interrupted by injuries to the whole squad," he says.

"The season has only began and there's a lot of games to go so I think we could push for the top three.

"We have got 19 players in our squad and at the moment I'm struggling to fill a side of 11.

"I have a lot of young players who are around 22.

"The only experienced players I have are Danny Cerjak (ex-Macarthur Rams) and Leo Pintos (ex-Fairfield Bulls) and the rest are under the age of 25.

"That's one of the reasons I think we lost the last two Grand Finals, we really choked.

"The younger guys didn't have experience in the bigger games and that's why I think we lost.

"Last year's Grand final was just amazing with five players being sent off and the ref didn't exactly help our cause.

"But that's not taking anything from the other side, they were the best team all season."

Mamoo has already achieved success winning a League Championship with Fairfield Bulls in 1994.

He would like to win another Championship with Western Sydney but believes the players might not come to the club because they're not prepared to spend the money that other clubs do.

According to Mamoo it's time for some players to get realistic about their wages.

"It's ridiculous with some players asking for two or three hundred dollars a game," he says.

"If they're coming to training and playing on the weekend, they are putting in five hours work and I don't know if doctors get that money.

"It's getting out of hand."

Sharpley aiming for top spot with Bulls

By Frank Risorto

FAIRFIELD Bulls captain Craig Sharpley is still confident of a good season despite his club's indifferent start to the season.

The Bulls simple ambition is to push for the Super League Championship.

"We definitely want to finish in the top two or three," he says.

"It's not outside this club's ability to do so and we want to finish as high as possible.

"We have the players available and a good squad with players like Matthew Borg, Adam Mammolitti and Pat Darvill."

Sharpley played in the NSL Sydney Olympic, Wollongong Wolves and Newcastle Breakers and is relishing the captaincy at Fairfield Bulls.

"I have been playing for a long time and spent over ten years in the NSL," he says.

"So I think I have enough experience to be captain despite the fact that it's my first season here at Fairfield."

Sharpley, who arrived from Eastern Suburbs this season, believes the mixture of youth and experience is well and alive at Fairfield.

"We have some older guys and some young kids who have come on well over the past two seasons," he says.

"Our players have played in all levels of football and some are more experienced then others.

"But we have a big squad and it's probably a better thing to have more players and I'm sure it's a good problem for coach John Turner to have.

"The club has done well to bring in new players and John Turner has been great so far.

"The atmosphere at the club is really good.

"The committee looks after the players and they are right behind the club and give us everything we need."

Earlier in the season in a *Super Soccer* Super League season preview, writer Greg Stock predicted that Fairfield would finish the season in first place, something Sharpley hopes isn't out of the club's reach.

"I think we have enough good players but you can't go past sides like Bankstown and Dulwich Hill," says Sharpley.

"And we are looking to get a couple of players from Blacktown and Bonnyrigg now that the Premier League season is over so that will strengthen the side.

"Hopefully we have the players and football to worry the bigger clubs and really stake a claim for a top three position."

NSW STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

WESTERN SYDNEY LIONS
V
CAMDEN TIGERS

Knight Park #4
Orchardleigh Road, Yennora

SUNDAY 22nd APRIL

KICK OFF
FIRST GRADE: 3.00 pm
UNDER 21s: 1.00 pm
Under 18s: 11.00 am

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WINTER SUPER LEAGUE (1ST, U21, U18)

Sat 21-Apr	Fraser Park	7:00PM	5:00PM	3:00PM	Fraser Park Jets	v	AC United
Sun 22-Apr	Jensen Park	6:00PM	4:00PM	2:00PM	Bankstown City Lions	v	Manly Warringah
Sat 21-Apr	Nineveh Field	7:00PM	5:00PM	3:00PM	Fairfield Bulls	v	Macarthur Rams
Sun 22-Apr	Arlington Oval	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Dulwich Hill	v	Rockdale City Suns
Sun 22-Apr	St George Stadium	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Hurstville City Minotaurs	v	Hajduk Wanderers
Sun 22-Apr	Hammondville Oval	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	M.S.C Liverpool	v	Stanmore Hawks

DIVISION ONE (1ST, U21, U18)

Sun 22-Apr	Bathurst Street Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Greystanes	v	Illawarra Lions
Sun 22-Apr	Fred Caterson Reserve	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Hills United	v	Hurstville ZSC
Sun 22-Apr	Mona Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Auburn United	v	Ryde City
Sun 22-Apr	Blick Oval	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Belmore Hercules	v	Sydney University
Sun 22-Apr	Popondetta Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Mt Druitt Town	v	White City
Sun 22-Apr	Cook Park Mt Pritchard	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Mt Pritchard	v	Bathurst '75

DIVISION TWO (1ST, U21, U18)

Sat 21-Apr	Cook Park St Marys	7:00 PM	5:00 PM	3:00 PM	Nepean Association	v	Western Rage
Sun 22-Apr	ES Marks Field	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Hakoah	v	Parramatta City
Sun 22-Apr	Mingara Club	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Central Coast Lakers	v	Balmain
Sun 22-Apr	David Phillips Field	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	University of NSW	v	Petersham Sydney District
Sun 22-Apr	Knight Park (4)	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Western Sydney Lions	v	Camden Tigers
Sun 22-Apr	Parkes Reserve	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	The Wanderers	v	Concord FC

DIVISION THREE (1ST, RESERVES)

Sun 22-Apr	William Lawson Res	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	Prospect United	v	Sydney Crescent Star
Sun 22-Apr	David Phillips Res	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	Trasandinos	v	United Eagles
Sun 22-Apr	Ernie Smith Oval	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	Liverpool City	v	Kellyville Kolts
Sun 22-Apr	Jensen Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	Auburn Star	v	Granville Greenisland
Sun 22-Apr	Summerhayes Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	Springwood	v	Hawkesbury City
				Colo Colo	(Bye)	

DIVISION FOUR (1ST, RESERVES

Sun 22-Apr	Alpha Road Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Sporting SCC	v	Kosciusko
Sat 21-Apr	CSI Club	6.00 pm	4.00 pm	Schofields Scorpions	v	Lithgow Workmen
Sun 22-Apr	UTS Campus Lindfield	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	UTS	v	Bossy
Sun 22-Apr	Hoxton Park Reserve	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Liverpool Olympic	v	Fairfield City
				(Bye)	v	Western Sydney Passion
Sun 22-Apr	Ron Routley Oval	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Inter Lions	v	Gladesville United

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE (1ST, U21)

Sun 22-Apr	North Lakes Oval	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Central Coast Lakers	v	NNSW Academy
Sun 22-Apr	Hajduk Stadium	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Hajduk Wanderers	v	Nepean Association
Sat 21-Apr	Cromer Park	7.00 pm	3.00 pm	Manly Warringah Dolphins	v	Marconi
Sun 22-Apr	Seymour Shaw	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Sutherland Sharks	v	NSW Academy
Sun 22-Apr	Brandon Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Wollongong Wolves	v	North West Sydney Koalas

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE (1ST, U19)

Sun 22-Apr	Lynwood Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Macarthur Rams	v	Bathurst City Panthers
Sun 22-Apr	CSI Ground	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Inter Lions/CSI	v	Coasties
				Granville Association	v	(Bye)
Sun 22-Apr	Morrison Bay	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	The Ravens	v	UWS Wolves C'iltown
Sun 22-Apr	Flockhart Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Petersham Sydney District	v	UTS
Sun 22-Apr	Bennett Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm	Roselands Raptors	v	St George Association

GIRL'S YOUTH LEAGUE (U16, U14)

Fri 20-Apr	Francis Park	8.15pm	7.00pm	Blacktown	v	Hajduk Wanderers
Sun 22-Apr	Club Marconi 2	11.15am	10.00am	Marconi	v	Macarthur Rams
Sun 22-Apr	Brandon Park 2	11.15am	10.00am	Wollongong Wolves	v	Central Coast Coasties
Sun 22-Apr	Morrison Bay 2	11.15am	10.00am	North West Sydney GYL	v	Ku-Ring-Gai
Fri 20-Apr	Bensley Road	8.15pm	7.00pm	Campbelltown Macarthur	v	Manly Warringah
Sun 22-Apr	Jenson Park	12.15pm	11.00am	Bankstown	v	Southern Branch
Fri 20-Apri (mini competition between Girls Youth League Bye Teams)						
	Cook Park, St Marys	8.15pm	7.00pm	Nepean	v	Sutherland

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE (U13, U14, U15, U17)

Sat 21-Apr	Sydney Utd Sports Centre	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:45 AM	1:15 PM	Sydney United	v	Wollongong Wolves
Sat 21-Apr	Macquarie Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Newcastle United	v	Macarthur Rams
Sat 21-Apr	St George Stadium	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	St George	v	Eastern Suburbs W'rers
Sat 21-Apr	Seymour Shaw	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Sutherland Shire	v	Fairfield Bulls
Sat 21-Apr	Christie Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Northern Spirit	v	Blacktown City Demons
Sat 21-Apr	Lambert Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Leichhardt Tigers	v	Manly Warringah Dolphins
Sat 21-Apr	Melita Stadium	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Parramatta Eagles	v	Sydney Olympic
Sat 21-Apr	Marconi No 2	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Marconi Stallions	v	Penrith Panthers
Sat 21-Apr	Marrickville Oval	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Canterbury M'ville	v	Central Coast Coasties
Sat 21-Apr	Jensen Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Bankstown City	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles

SUPER CADET LEAGUE (U11, U12)

Sat 21-Apr	Seymour Shaw	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Sutherland Shire	v	Fairfield Bulls
Sat 21-Apr	Christie Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Northern Spirit	v	Blacktown City Demons
Sat 21-Apr	Lambert Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Leichhardt Tigers	v	Manly Warringah Dolphins
Sat 21-Apr	Melita Stadium	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Parramatta Eagles	v	Sydney Olympic
Sat 21-Apr	Marconi No 2	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Marconi Stallions	v	Penrith Panthers
Sat 21-Apr	Marrickville Oval	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Canterbury M'ville	v	Central Coast Coasties
Sat 21-Apr	Jensen Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Bankstown City	v	Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Sun 22-Apr	St George Stadium	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	St George	v	Eastern Suburbs W'rers
Sun 22-Apr	Allambie Reserve	0:00 AM	11:00 AM	Sydney United	v	Wollongong Wolves
				Macarthur Rams		Bye

DIVISION ONE YOUTH (U13, U14, U15, U16)

Sun 22-Apr	Fred Caterson	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:45 AM	1:15 PM	Hills United	v	Nepean Association
Sat 21-Apr	Hajduk Stadium	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hajduk Wanderers	v	AC United
Sat 21-Apr	Pratten Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Stanmore Hawks	v	Blacktown Association
Sat 21-Apr	Mingara Club	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Central Cst Lakers	v	Ryde City
Sat 21-Apr	Parklands Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Ku-Ring-Gai	v	Southern Branch
Sat 21-Apr	Macedonia Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Illawarra Lions	v	Mt Pritchard

DIVISION ONE CADETS (U11, U12)

Sun 22-Apr	Hammondville Park	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	MSC Liverpool	v	Illawarra Lions
Sun 22-Apr	Fred Caterson Reserve	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Hills United	v	Hajduk Wanderers
Sun 22-Apr	Popondetta Park	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Mt Druitt Town Rangers	v	Ryde City
Sun 22-Apr	Beverly Hills Park	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Hurstville City Minotaurs	v	AC United
Sun 22-Apr	Cook Park Mt Pritchard	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Mt Pritchard	v	Stanmore Hawks
Sun 22-Apr	Mingara Club	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Central Coast Lakers	v	Hawkesbury City
Sun 22-Apr	Rockdale Ilinden	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Rockdale City Suns	v	Schofields Scorpions
Sun 22-Apr	Eric Primrose Reserve	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Parramatta City	v	Camden Tigers

DIVISION TWO YOUTH (U13, U14, U15, U16)

Sat 21-Apr	CSI Club	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:45 AM	1:15 PM	Schofield Scorpions	v	Hawkesbury City
Sat 21-Apr	Ron Dine Reserve	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Camden Tigers	v	Granville Association
Sat 21-Apr	Arlington Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Dulwich Hill	v	Hurstville City Minotaurs
Sat 21-Apr	Eric Primrose Reserve	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Parramatta City	v	MSC Liverpool
Sat 21-Apr	Rockdale Ilinden	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Rockdale City	v	Mt Druitt

THE ROAD TO TOKYO .....

OCEANIA GROUP A WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS, COFFS HARBOUR APRIL 7-16

Fijian coach hits out at Farina

By Paul Millar

THE Fijian race had been belittled and its soccer team compared to animals by Australian coach Frank Farina, a seething Fijian coach Billy Singh said last week.

The tension between the two sides ahead of Saturday's World Cup qualifying match, which Australia won 2-0, became abundantly clear when Farina said he expected the Fijians to come out "kicking, punching and brawling" in a bid to claw out a draw in the one-sided Oceania qualifiers.

Singh ignored political correctness with a fiery retort.

"It's not good to belittle a race or a country."

Australia was the runaway leader in its stroll through the pool games with world record-breaking scores of 22-0 against Tonga and 31-0 against American Samoa.

"No matter how good they are they should so some respect ... it was silly for a professional coach to say that," Singh said while adding that Farina lacked class. "He is sitting on the top of the world talking down to us. He's comparing us to animals and the players are upset."

Farina was unconcerned that Singh took exception to his outburst and said it was expected from his outspoken rival.

"Who cares," Farina said.

"History shows that's what usually happens," Farina replied.

Archie Thompson: World record goal scorer

The Fijians caused an upset against Australia in 1988 when they beat the Socceroos on home soil but lost the return leg 5-1 in Newcastle in a game which Charlie Yankos had his nose broken.

An Olympic qualifier between the sides in 1991 turned into a brawling affair when four players were sent off and others left the field nursing wounds and bruised bodies.

Australia started as clear favourites for the game but there was no goal-glut against a Fijian side which is as physically strong as the Socceroos but did not have the discipline, technique or talent to match them.

Farina said the only reason he had called up so many overseas-based players for this game was because he regarded it as a danger match against a side that had some quality players and would lift.

"I'm expecting a very difficult game and a very physical one," the Australian coach said before the match.

And in other World Cup news Archie Thompson, who scored a world record 13 goals in Australia's 31-0 soccer win over American Samoa last night, says his record won't last.

Thompson passed the ten-goal mark set in the 1908 Olympics and equalled in the next Games.

He says if Australia is forced to play some of the weaker nations in the Oceania region it won't be long before the record is broken again.

Australia's 31-0 scoreline last week passed the world record tally of 22-0 it set against Tonga in the opening game of the World Cup qualifiers.

Socceroos easy ride set to end

By Paul Millar

AUSTRALIA'S juggernaut ride through the Oceania World Cup qualifiers is set to end with FIFA poised to step in and stop the senseless massacre of the region's easy-beats.

FIFA's regional technical chief Tai Nicholas said plans had been already drawn up for teams like American Samoa, Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and the Cook Islands to play out qualifiers before meeting the big guns of Oce-

Under the proposal, the weaker nations will play-off with the top two teams then advancing to play the likes of Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji.

The idea is still in its infancy but Australia's world record 22-0 win over Tonga and the advancement of that scoreline to 31-0 against American Samoa will lead to changes for the next World Cup.

Nicholas said the mis-matches had to end and a proposal would be put to the Oceania Football Confederation in June.

Australian coach Frank Farina said the process had to change and had the support of Samoan coach Victor Fernandez and Tonga's Gary Phillips.

FIFA media spokesman Keith Cooper said a change was likely because of the difference in quality of the Oceania teams.

"It's quite clear that in none of the other five confederations is the gap between the top and bottom so large as it is in Oceania," Cooper told Sky TV.

Farina, who was rebuked by Oceania Football Confederation chief Basil Scarsella for his push for a revamp, had the support of Cooper.

Cooper said it did the image of the game no good and it was not beneficial to the winners or the losers, which was exactly what Farina said.

Scarsella, who also told Farina to stay out of regional soccer politics and concentrate on team management, said his board had not even considered a change to the qualifiers yet.

He argued earlier that the series gave the minnows of the region the chance to play against the best every four years and learn from the process.

Australia also had that opportunity if it qualified for the World Cup as it had the chance to play against teams like Argentina.

However, his stance appeared to have softened after the embarrassing losses Tonga and American Samoa suffered.

"There has been no talk yet at board level but we will obviously look at a change in the format after the qualifying series. We are obviously going to try and improve the quality of the series but we won't be changing mid-stream," Scarsella said.

"If it needs to be changed, we will change it." Oceania will be presented with a proposal in June and the prospect of a FIFA backlash will force the issue through.

.... and so does Dick

By Phil Gordon

GLASGOW Rangers manager Dick Advocaat has launched a scathing attack on Australia coach Frank Farina for insisting that two of his men play in the 22-0 rout of Tonga in a World Cup qualifier.

Advocaat is furious that defenders Craig Moore and Tony Vidmar were forced to fly 18,000 kilometres to play in last Monday's match that even Farina (above) admitted was little more than a "training run."

Rangers, trying to secure a Champions League place for next season, were without the Australian internationals for a match with Hibernian on Sunday which they drew 0-0.

Advocaat said that Farina's decision not to call-up players from Leeds United, Middlesbrough and Manchester City, while insisting Moore and Vidmar join the squad, showed a lack of respect for Rangers whose injury problems this season have been well documented.

"It says enough about the stupidity of the situation when a team is winning 22-0 and the annoying thing is that the Australian manager clearly does not need all his overseas players to win a game like that," he said.

"The worst aspect is that he is applying one rule for certain clubs and a different rule to other clubs.

"Why is it that Rangers and Coventry City have to supply their players to the Australian team and yet Middlesbrough and Manchester City do not?

"I would like Mr Farina to answer that. It is the final part of the season and every club needs all its players, not just some clubs."

Advocaat, who as a national coach took the Netherlands to the World Cup finals in 1994, has to deal with a number of international managers because of his multi-national squad.

Rangers have six Dutch internationals and U.S. captain Claudio Reyna.

They have also been deprived of Giovanni van Bronckhorst since the mid-fielder injured himself in a training session with Holland last October.

More recently, the Scottish side have been without Turkish international Kerimoglu Tugay who damaged his ankle playing in a friendly for Turkey in March.

"The American coach, Bruce Arena, is doing a good job," added Advocaat.

"He always tries to play his matches at the same time as the European ones.

"It's not always possible but at least he tries.

"The strange thing is that Farina has played in Europe so he knows what happens here, but these problems always exist when the rules favour the national teams."

Farina said of the world-record rout of Tonga: "This was embarrassing for us, there was nothing to gain from it.

"It was a training run for us."

Moore, 25, has only just returned from a 10-month absence with a knee injury and has played just two first-team games.

He said: "The manager (Advocaat) knows the situation is out of our control.

"It will be hard for us when we go back, you just don't walk into a side like Rangers."

THE ROAD TO TOKYO

OCEANIA GROUP A WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS, COFFS HARBOUR APRIL 7-16

Australia trounce Tonga for world record score

AUSTRALIA 22
TONGA 0

AUSTRALIA have scored the most comprehensive victory in the history of soccer internationals by beating Tonga 22-0 in Oceania's first round of qualifying for the 2002 World Cup finals.

Striker John Aloisi of premier league club Coventry City scored six goals -- a double hat- trick.

A spokesman for FIFA, world soccer's ruling body, said the previous record victory in an international was China's 20-0 defeat of Bhutan in an Asian Cup qualifier in 2000.

The previous record for a World Cup qualifier was held by Iran who beat Guam 19-0 in Asia's first round of World Cup qualifying in Tehran last October.

The FIFA spokesman said there were "rumours" that Libya had beaten Oman 21-0 in an international in 1966 but this was unconfirmed.

Australia coach Frank Farina said: "Oceania have to seriously look at the format.

JOHN ALOISI:
His Socceroo World Cup campaign was surrounded by controversy. His selection caused a backlash from Coventry City manager Gordon Strachan who has accused Australian coach Frank Farina of showing favouritism by not bringing other English-based stars. But Aloisi's campaign ended on a sour note when he was stretchered off against Fiji.

"We had nothing to gain from it and they had nothing to gain from it either -- it was embarrassing, no-one was a winner."

Farina said he did not care if managers of European-based players screamed about losing their players to such a lopsided tournament, whatever the result, because it was the World Cup.

Tonga coach Gary Phillips complained about Australia bringing in players from overseas for their first international against Tonga, the 185th-ranked soccer nation in the world.

"I do not see the point of some of these superstars coming back for this," Phillips said.

Scott Chipperfield, who hit the first goal in the third minute, struck again seven minutes from time to make the score 20-0 and set a record score for a World Cup qualifier.

Australia, ranked 75th by FIFA and without an appearance at the World Cup finals since 1974, scored again in the 87th minute and a minute into injury time to win 22-0 after leading 10-0 at halftime.

Australia's 21st goal against Tonga was scored by substitute Con Boutsianis, who was fined last week and placed on a two-year good behaviour bond after admitting his role in a 1998 armed robbery.

Most of Australia's leading players including strikers Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka of Leeds United and Australian captain Paul Okon, a midfielder with Middlesborough, were unavailable for the group one qualifiers.

Australia 22 (Scott Chipperfield 3, 84, Damian Mori 12, 22, 39, 57, John Aloisi 14, 23, 36, 45, 51, 63, Kevin Muscat 17 pen, 29 pen, 54 pen, 83, Tony Popovic 65, Tony Vidmar 73, David Zdrilic 77, 90, Archie Thompson 79, Con Boutsiania 85)
Tonga 0
Australia: Clint Bolton; Kevin Muscat, Craig Moore, Tony Popovic, Tony Vidmar, Lindsay Wilson, Steve Corica (Con Boutsianis, 70), Hayden Foxe, Scott Chipperfield, John Aloisi (Archie Thompson, 74), Damian Mori (David Zdrilic, 70)
Tonga: Tuahiva Fincfeuiaki; Kilifi Uele, Toakai Toto, Filisione Taufahema, Halapua Falepapalangi, Lokoua Taufahema, Siua Maamaloa, Akoli Mafi, Hateni Manu, Kaisani Uhatahi, Teu Fakava

Samoa 8 (Mexico Lisi Leututu 8og, Dominic Gabriel 36, Richmond Faaisuaso 42, 52, 72, 87, Ben Lemana 58, Junior Michael 63)
American Samoa 0
American Samoa: Nicky Salapu; Mexico Lisi Leututu, Soe Falimaua, Levaulu Fatu, Sulifou Faaloua, Travis Pita Sinapati, Alex Savea, Baby Mulipola, Pati Feagiai, Ben Falaniko, Young Im Min
Samoa: Molesi Tokuma; Faimasasa Falilu, Dominic Gabriel, Pualele Lemana, Philipo Bureta, Peko Victor, Ambrose Asafo, Etena Tokuma, Richmond Faaisuaso, Junior Michael, Ben Lemana

FIJI 6 (U Mateiwai 6', M Masi 21', 41', A Prasad 48' 81', S Lai 85')
SAMOA 1 (B Lemana pen 33')
FIJI: Isikeli Sevanaia (gk); Valerio Nasema, Manoa Raiyawa Masi, Emois Baleinuku, Shailendra Lal, Esala Masi, Jope Namawa Leka, Ulaiasi Radike Mateiwai (Atnesh Prasad 46'), Ratu Apenisa Roluvenisoba, Malakai Kainihewe (Leone Vurukania 85'), Josaia Sauturaga (Abinesh Sailesh Samy 46').
SAMOA: Molesi Tokuma (gk); Faimasasa Falilu, Dominic Gabriel (Sale Sua-mili 72'), Pualele Lemana, Philipo Bureta, Peko Victor, Ambrose Asafo, Etena Tokuma, Richmond Faaisuaso, Junior Michael, Ben Lemana (Peniamina Timo 57').

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THE ROAD TO TOKYO

OCEANIA GROUP A WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS, COFFS HARBOUR APRIL 7-16

American Samoa's prayers not answered

By Paul Millar

AUSTRALIA 31
AMERICAN SAMOA 0

AMERICAN Samoa prayed for help to keep the score down, but nobody told the Socceroos who hit a world record 31 goals against the Polynesians without reply in the most lop-sided soccer mismatch ever.

Marconi's Archie Thompson, who had only scored one international goal before the avalanche, hit a world record 13 to eclipse the previous mark of 10 set in the 1908 Olympics and matched in the next Games.

The deeply religious American Samoans, ranked last at 203rd on the FIFA ladder, sang harmonious folk songs in the stands just before the game in their version of team bonding.

It appeared to work for 10 minutes as the teenage hopefuls held the marauding Australian strikers in check until Con Boutsianis sent an in-swinging corner straight into the net.

By half-time, the Socceroos were 16-0 up and the manual scoreboard operator never usually got more than two minutes rest while the man on the American Samoan side could have taken a lengthy nap.

Socceroos skipper Kevin Muscat said the Polynesians were saying "that's enough, no more".

But there was plenty to follow and if it hadn't been for a string of reflex saves by goalkeeper Nicky Salapu who knows where the massacre would have ended.

Thompson's 11th goal in the 66th minute was Australia's 23rd and took the Socceroos past the 22-0 world record they set against Tonga in their opening game of the Oceania qualifying farce.

The previous individual record in World Cup games was held by Australian Gary Cole who hit seven goals against Fiji in a qualifier in 1982.

David Zdrilic even passed that with an eight goal haul tonight, while Thompson said he does not expect his 13 goal tally to stand for long, especially if Australia continues to play teams like Tonga and American Samoa.

While the Australians were working out who had scored the goals in the next room, the American Samoans were praying and singing hymns.

"God is the righteous one and because of him losing by so many goals does not matter," coach Tunoa Lui said.

When Thompson hit his 12th and Australia's 29th the scoreboard attendant had already put up the number 30.

It was probably a smart move as the striker hit another one two minutes later.

Boutsianis, who only made his Socceroo debut on Monday night, hit a hat-trick, Simon Colosimo snared two as did Aurelio Vidmar and Tony Popovic while Fausto De Amicis scored a solo.

The biggest cheer from the crowd came when American Samoa's Pati Feagiai had a weak shot at goal at the 87th minute mark in what was their only strike at Australia's net all night.

The American Samoans left the pitch as they had entered - arm in arm, smiling and accepting the applause of the crowd, returning to the rooms somehow retaining their dignity despite the scoreline.

AUSTRALIA 31 (C Boutsianis 10' 50' 84', A Thompson 12' 23' 27' 29' 32' 37' 42' 45' 56' 60' 65' 85' 88', D Zdrilic 13' 21' 25' 33' 58' 66' 78' 89 , A Vidmar 14' 80', T Popovic 17' 19', S Colosimo 51' 81', F de Amicis 55')
AMERICAN SAMOA 0
Half-time: 16-0
Venue: Coffs Harbour International Sports Stadium, Coffs Harbour, Australia.
Referee: Ronan Leaustic (Tahiti)
Yellow Cards: nil
AUSTRALIA: Michael Petkovic (gk); Kevin Muscat, Craig Moore, Tony Popovic (Fausto de Amicis 46') , Tony Vidmar (Scott Miller 46'), Simon Colosimo, Aurelio Vidmar Steve Horvat, Con Boutsianis, Archie Thompson, David Zdrilic.
AMERICAN SAMOA: Nicky Salapu (gk); Mexico Lisi Leututu (Richard D Mariko 50'), Soe Falimaua, Levaula Fatu, Sulifou Faaloua, Travis Pita Sinapati, Baby Mulipola, Pati Feagiai, Ben Fa-

TONGA 5 (L Taufahema 2' 24' 51', P Moa 79'pen, T Fakava 86')
AMERICAN SAMOA 0
Venue: Coffs Harbour International Sports Stadium, Coffs Harbour, Australia
Referee: Brian Precious
Yellow Cards: none
TONGA: Viliami Taufahema (gk); Kilifi Uele, Unaloto-Ki-Atenoa Fe'ao, Filisione Taufahema, Halapua Falepapalangi, Solomone Moa, Lokoua Taufahema (Ipeni Fonua 71'), Siua Maamaloa (Falame Ilangana 81'), Timote Moleni (Penieli Moa 64'), Hateni Manu, Teu Fakava.
AMERICAN SAMOA: Nicky Salapu (gk); Mexico Lisi Leututu, Soe Falimaua, Levaula Fatu (Richard D Mariko 86'), Sulifou Faaloua (Marshall Silao 58'), Travis Pita Sinapati, Baby Mulipola, Pati Feagiai, Ben Falaniko, Tiaoali'l Savea, Young Im Min.

SOCCEROOS CLEAR FIRST WORLD CUP HURDLE

AUSTRALIA 2
FIJI 0

AUSTRALIA beat Fiji 2-0 to win its group in the Oceania leg of the World Cup qualifiers at the Coffs Harbour International Sports Stadium.

After breaking the international scoring record twice this week, Australia's goal glut was frustrated by a determined Fiji side.

The Socceroos were made to work hard for their goals in the absence of individual international scoring record-holder Archie Thompson.

Thompson was rested by coach Frank Farina after netting 13 goals in Wednesday's 31-0 win over American Samoa which followed the 22-0 drubbing of Tonga on Monday.

They took the lead in the 23rd minute when former Wolves midfielder Steve Corica netted from a Con Boutsianis cross and West Ham's Hayden Foxe added a second in the 79th minute.

Socceroos skipper Kevin Muscat, also Wolves' captain, said: "We didn't expect them to make it easy for us, and they certainly didn't do that.

"They had a lot of people behind the ball, and while we had a lot of possession unfortunately we didn't score a few more goals, but two's enough to win a game.

"We wanted to raise the tempo of the game, but it was very difficult, the way they played the match didn't allow us to do that, but it's all about qualifying for the next round, we still have one game to go, and we're looking to win that as well."

The only down side for the Australians was the loss of Coventry striker John Aloisi, who was stretchered from the field in the closing minutes with a hamstring injury.

Australia can only be prevented from making the second round play-off, which will probably be against New Zealand, if they lose to Samoa and Fiji beat Tonga by over 40 goals.

Against Fiji the Socceroos forced to wait until midway through the first half to break the stalemate.

Con Boutsianis fired in a deep drive which Steve Corica headed goalward, goalkeeper Isikeli Sevanaia managed to get a hand to it but Corica snapped onto the loose ball and hammered it home.

Fiji failed to capitulate, though, and in fact started to take the game to the Australians.

Just before the turn, Leone Vurukania skipped by Boutsianis and curled the ball into the heart of the penalty area.

Marconi youth player Josaia Sauturaga found space but, with the goal yawning before him, scooped the ball it into the air when he should have hit the target.

Hayden Foxe put the result beyond doubt when he latched on to a Scott Chipperfield through ball and slipped into the net with nine minutes to play.

Coventry City's John Aloisi was stretchered from the ground late in the game with a suspected hamstring injury.

"The result, as we've been stressing all week, is the most important thing, and again the lads went out, maybe a little flatter tonight, but we got what we were after, a win," said Socceroo coach Frank Farina at the post-match media conference.

"Fiji was very well disciplined, and they made it very difficult for us, I wouldn't say it surprised me, because I think Fijian football has come a long way in the last ten to fifteen years but as I said, the important thing for us is that it was a win tonight."

AUSTRALIA 2 (S Corica 22', H Foxe 79')
FIJI 0
Venue: Coffs Harbour International Sports Stadium, Coffs Harbour, Australia
Referee: Derek Rugg (New Zealand)
Yellow Cards: FIJI: M Namaqa 84'
AUSTRALIA: Clint Bolton (gk); Kevin Muscat, Craig Moore, Tony Popovic, Tony Vidmar, Lindsay Wilson (Simon Colosimo 53'), Hayden Foxe, Steve Corica, Con Boutsianis (Scott Chipperfield 65'), John Aloisi, Damian Mori (Archie Thompson 70').
FIJI: Isikeli Sevanaia (gk); Valerio Nasema, Emosi Baleinuku, Marika Namaqa, Esala Masi, Leone Vurukania (Abinesh Sailesh Samy 87'), Jope Namawa Leka, Ulaiasi Radike Mateiwai (Shailemdra Lal 90'), Ratu Apenisa Roluvenisoba, Viliame Dawai Toma (Malakai Kainihewe 84'), Josaia Sauturaga.

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THE ROAD TO TOKYO

OCEANIA GROUP A WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS, COFFS HARBOUR APRIL 7-16

COFFS HARBOUR SLAUGHTER ENDS

A half-pace Australia completed the first step of its World Cup campaign the same way it started with a double figure finish against Samoa in another lop-sided Oceania qualifier.

The Socceroos hit 11 goals without reply, taking their tally in the series to 66-0 at an average of 16.5 goals a game, a goal almost every five minutes.

While the 11-0 scoreline is regarded as a thrashing by anybody, by Australia's standard in this series it bordered on average. Tonga went down a world-record 22-0, American Samoan advanced that scoreline to 31-0 and Fiji put some sense back into the series with a 2-0 loss.

Samoa, like every side in this series, retreated from the kick-off to try and prevent the predictable avalanche of goals.

Aurelio Vidmar unzipped the packed defence with a sweet strike after five minutes and then hit the crossbar but Australia hit a dry spell and couldn't advance the score until just before the half-hour.

David Zdrilic took it to 2-0 with a header and world record goalscorer Archie Thompson hit the woodwork.

Hayden Foxe made it 3-0 with a deflected shot just before the break but it should have been more and they knew it.

Molesi Tokuma performed heroics but Socceroo coach Frank Farina made it even more difficult for the overworked Samoan goalkeeper by bringing on Damian Mori for a three-pronged strikeforce.

The trickle immediately turned to a flood with the Socceroos camping in the Samoan box and hammering away without mercy.

Aurelio Vidmar advanced it to 4-0 with a free-kick shortly after the turn, Tony Popovic headed in on 55 minutes and they were netting faster than the local fishermen.

Thompson nudged it up to 7-0 and the Socceroos were falling over each other to score.

Scott Chipperfield added his name to the tally sheet and then Thompson went on a solo run, weaving past the outclassed Samoans, striking home his second and Australia's ninth.

Simon Colosimo drilled a fierce shot goalbound, it took a deflection and spun into the net, the Australian thought he'd scored but referee Brian Precious decided it was an own goal off Pilipo Bureta.

Popovic finished the rout in the dying minutes with a header and Australia had won the most one-sided series in world soccer.

Stand-in skipper Kevin Muscat, who took the captain's armband because Paul Okon was unavailable through club commitments, said his lasting memory of the series would be skippering his country.

"I was captain of the beginning of the World Cup campaign," he said.

He'll also carry the memory of being in a record breaking side even though the opposition, apart from Fiji would struggle to beat any state league side.

Archie zooms to world fame

By Paul Millar

EUROPEAN clubs were ringing like never before and laconic Archie Thompson was slowly starting to realise what it meant to hold the world's goal scoring record.

Thompson, of the easy smile and willing handshake, hit 13 goals in a world record 31-0 victory over what was really a boys' team from American Samoa to eclipse a mark that has stood since the 1908 Olympics.

Spophus Nielson hit a lazy ten goals against France in those Games which are still regarded as A grade internationals.

Thompson's manager John Grimaud was inundated with calls about the 22-year-old from around the world last night within hours of Thompson's record-breaking haul.

Anderlecht and FC Brugge were keen to pursue their interest in the striker and the Scottish press believed with a name like Archie Thompson he had to have Caledonian blood racing through his veins and should be playing for them.

Thompson, who has a New Zealand passport yet wears a Socceroo shirt in the head shot, was eligible to play for Australia or the Kiwis.

He chose the Socceroos despite an impassioned plea from their rivals.

The forward got his first start in a senior international against American Samoa and, despite a nervous opening ten minutes, he banged in goal after goal in the rout.

The bingo callers say "unlucky for some - thirteen" and the teenage defender trying to shackle the Australian livewire must have thought it the unluckiest night of his life.

Socceroos coach Frank Farina made seven changes to the side that beat Tonga, a then world record 22-0, and brought in Thompson and David Zdrilic for Damian Mori and John Aloisi.

Mori had scored four against Tonga to become Australia's all-time top scorer with 26 and was sitting on the bench wondering how long it would last the way Thompson was scoring.

He screamed jokingly for the American Samoans to close down the No.20. They didn't or couldn't and the Marconi forward went on an unmatched goalscoring spree.

To add to the irony, Thompson's 13 was more than the 12 his coach Frank Farina had tallied in an illustrious career in the green and gold.

His 11th goal was Australia's 23rd and that was another world record.

Thompson, whose future was in doubt when his then club Carlton folded earlier this season, will now become the most marketable player within Australia's shores.

He was still coming to terms with his achievements as newspapers and television networks rang Australia to check the score and ask for his telephone number.

AUSTRALIA 11 (A Vidmar 5' 49', D Zdrilic 28' 57', H Foxe 44', T Popovic 55' 89', A Thompson 75' 78, S Chipperfield 76', P Bureta og 81')
SAMOA 0
Venue: Coffs Harbour International Sports Stadium, Coffs Harbour, Australia
Referee: Brian Precious (New Zealand)
Yellow Cards: SAMOA: P Victor 41',
AUSTRALIA: Michael Petkovic (gk); Kevin Muscat, Craig Moore, Tony Popovic, Fausto de Amicis, Simon Colosimo, Hayden Foxe (Damian Mori 46'), Aurelio Vidmar, Scott Chipperfield, David Zdrilic, Archie Thompson 70.
SAMOA: Molesi Tokuma (gk); Faimasasa Falilu, Sale Sua-mili, Pualele Lemana, Philipo Bureta, Peko Victor (I Mapusua 81'), Ambrose Asafo, Rudolph Lilomaiava, Richmond Faaisuaso (P Timo 76'), Junior Michael, Ben Lemana (E Tyrell 60').

FIJI 8 (J Leka 4', E Masi 30' 35' 39' 48' 91+', L Vurukania 55', V Nasema 62')
TONGA 1 (F Taufahema 77')
Venue: Coffs Harbour Referee: Ronan Leaustic (Tahiti)
Yellow Cards: FIJI: n/a TONGA: U Fe'ao 61'
FIJI: Shamal Kumar (gk); Valerio Nasema, Manoa Raiyawa Masi, Emosi Baleinuku, Marika Namaqa (Thomas Robert Esaeli Qoro 64'), Esala Masi, Leone Vurukania (Shailemdra Lal 69'), Jope Namawa Leka, Ulaiasi Radike Mateiwai (Maika Nacovunisaqa Levula 46'), Ratu Apenisa Roluvenisoba, Viliame Dawai Toma.
TONGA: Viliami Taufahema (gk); Kilifi Uele, Unaloto-Ki-Atenoa Fe'ao, Filisione Taufahema, Halapua Falepapalangi, Lokoua Taufahema (Timote Moleni 72'), Siua Maamaloa, Akoli Mafi (Solomone Moa 46'), Penieli Moa (Lopeti Halapoi Fuimaono 57'), Hateni Manu, Teu Fakava.

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SUPER SOCCER'S FEDERATION BIG MATCH REPORT

DIVISION 2 ROUND UP

With Paul Goodwin

Groake bender seals it for Parramatta

THE Second Division season took a new turn when unbeaten leaders Nepean were beaten 3-1 at Parramatta City's Eric Primrose Reserve where the locals took over at the top instead.

The home side took time to settle but got their noses in front in the 38th from top marksman Alex Alexander and added a second two minutes after the break from Lee Casha.

Andrew Quinnell pulled one back five minutes later for the visitors, but City wrapped it up in the 82nd through Neil Groake who bent the ball nicely around the keeper.

It was a very tight game between two excellent sides and hung in the balance for most of the ninety minutes, being played in a very good spirit throughout.

Western Rage dropped to third after being held 1-1 at home to Western Sydney Lions whose goal from Eddie Adam in the 20th was cancelled out by Richards in the 36th to save a point.

Balmain had their best result to date at Birchgrove Oval, a 4-2 win over Hakoah.

Civili's 5th minute strike for the Tigers was immediately rubbed out by Martin's goal a minute later.

Further goals in the 37th from Scott Barlow, in the 57th from Turpin and in the 68th from Matt Jaffray proved enough despite a late reply from Terry Sperber via the penalty spot.

Petersham Sydney District earned their second win in a row when Fadi Chedid' s goal on the hour did the damage against a defiant Central Coast Lakers.

University of NSW took their third point from four matches when they drew 0-0 with The Wanderers at David Phillips Field.

Camden Tigers, like Hakoah, University and their opponents last weekend, Concord, are still looking for their first win and looked set fair after Beever had them in front after only three minutes and then extended their lead through Will Croker in the 38th.

Concord, however, had other ideas and fought back with Pisano in the 62nd and Con Boutsikakis in the 75th grabbing the two goals needed to force a draw and gain their first point of a difficult season thus far.

PROGRESSIVE SCORERS:
3 Edward Adam (Western Sydney Lions),
3 Alex Alexander (Parramatta City),
3 Andrew Quinnell (Nepean),
2 Richard Astone (Nepean),
2 Daniel Lownds (Nepean),
2 G Orajo (The Wanderers),
2 Glenn McPherson (Nepean),
2 Chris Smith (Central Coast),
2 Wayne Spiteri (Western Sydney Lions),
2 John Palumbo (Western Rage),
2 Luis Granata (Western Rage),
2 Matt Jaffray (Balmain),
2 Scott Barlow (Balmain),
2 S Beever (Camden Tigers),
2 Lee Casha (Parramatta),

WORLD CUP EXTRA
FOR THE RECORD

How Australia notched up that world record win

Score	Scorer	Minute Mark
1-0	Con Boutsianis	10'
2-0	Archie Thompson	12'
3-0	David Zdrilic	13'
4-0	Aurelio Vidmar	14'
5-0	Tony Popovic	17'
6-0	Tony Popovic	19'
7-0	David Zdrilic	21'
8-0	Archie Thompson	23'
9-0	David Zdrilic	25
10-0	Archie Thompson	27'
11-0	Archie Thompson	29'
12-0	Archie Thompson	32'
13-0	David Zdrilic	33'
14-0	Archie Thompson	37'
15-0	Archie Thompson	42'
16-0	Archie Thompson	45'
17-0	Con Boutsianis	50'
18-0	Simon Colosimo	51'
19-0	Fausto de Amicis	55'
20-0	Archie Thompson	56'
21-0	David Zdrilic	58'
22-0	Archie Thompson	60'
23-0	Archie Thompson	65'
24-0	David Zdrilic	66'
25-0	David Zdrilic	78'
26-0	Aurelio Vidmar	80'
27-0	Simon Colosimo	81'
28-0	Con Boutsianis	84'
29-0	Archie Thompson	85
30-0	Archie Thompson	88'
31-0	David Zdrilic	89'

It's just a result: Farina

"It's a result and really, that's all that matters, we now move onto Fiji, and as I said prior to the tournament, the aim was to win all four games, so it's a result," said coach Frank Farina after the match.

"I was pleased again with the professional attitude of the players, the way they went about it was in a very professional manner, and that, from my point, is the most pleasing aspect of the whole night.

"As I've said in the past, we go out and play pretty much every game in the same manner.

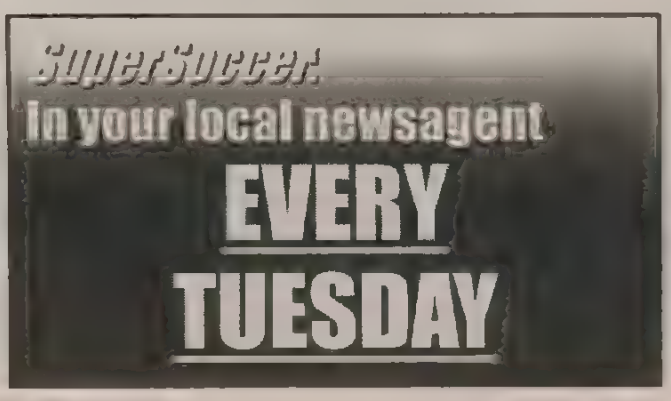
"We concentrate on what our strengths are and what we want to do on the park and we did that again tonight, and we did it well.

"The plan for us when we go into a game is always pretty much the same.

"We don't look too much at what other teams are doing, we try and make sure what we do, we do well, and it's been working quite well for us."

"It's obviously great scoring goals, and being part of a world record is an honour," said Archie Thompson after the game.

"At halftime I was told about the record, but as Frank said, we're out there to do a job, and I'm just happy to score goals, against any opposition."



DIVISION 1 ROUND UP

With Paul Goodwin

HURSTVILLE ZSC confirmed their early superiority in this year's First Division competition with a sound 4-1 win over Greystanes at Hurstville Oval on Sunday afternoon.

Ahead after only 26 seconds from a header by Alan Pavelic, they went on to score three more, firstly from a Robert Babaic volley, then from an Ante Buntic header and finally from a shot from new recruit Nick Mandic.

The Stanes' reply came from Steve Crawhall ten minutes from time.

Illawarra Lions took the lead against Mount Druitt at Macedonia Park through Osvaldo El Ali.

While Micky Mohamed levelled for the visitors, two more Lions goals, both from Oliver Vrckovski, sealed the issue 3-1 for a home side that was making its first league appearance on the club's newly-built ground at Berkeley.

White City suffered a surprise 2-0 loss at the Calabrian Sports Ground to visiting Bathurst 75 whose start to the season had been a somewhat indifferent one.

A 10th minute cross from the right was put away by Mark Rooke and in the 70th minute a near replica cross saw the second goal go in through the same player.

Two bad misses by White City's Costello de andre Hog and Danny Poljak allowed the Central West side to go back across the mountains, untroubled, with a three point booty.

Hills United stole all the points from neighbours Ryde City, the hitherto unbeaten leaders, despite the handicap of playing much of the game with only ten men.

The game was played in a competitive good spirit and a large derby crowd was on hand to see the good rivals in action in brilliant sunshine.

A second minute strike from Daniel Mittiga proved enough, though Hills had other chances that were squandered, most notably right near the end, when Nicky Ward headed wide from close range.

The goal arrived when a long throw from Julian Miller was flicked on by Daniel Nash to the waiting Mittiga who caught the defence napping with a crisp shot.

Neither keeper was too busy as defences dominated, especially the Hills boys, who were magnificent after losing a player to a red card for retaliation and played it smart the whole game to run out deserving winners 1-0. They were under some threat from Ryde, but managed to deny even a point to their Ryde opponents in the 90th minute when a Tim Stratford header was headed off the line by the NSW Second Division's Player of the Year in 2000, Damon Thompson, who had a blinder.

Jarrod Nash always looked lively for Ryde but the closest he came to scoring was in the 19th minute when he headed against the bar from a smart cross by Matthew Brown on the right touchline.

The Hills team, coached by former Ryde junior coach Ken Johnston, played like men inspired. After earlier good wins by both the Under 21s and Under 18s, the Gunners were looking forward to a clean sweep, but it was not to be. On the Saturday Belmore Hercules and Mount Pritchard drew 1-1 at Blick Oval with both goals coming in the last 10 minutes of a keenly fought encounter.

Jeff Suzor's free kick was deflected by ex Mounties striker, Greg Baldock, past Michael Hartas for the Belmore lead, however, in the last minute, a Mounties free kick saw Joe Moric pick out Jako Simic whose header rocketed past former Mount Pritchard keeper Matt Darwen for the equaliser.

A number of players, other than merely Darwin, had transferred to Belmore from the Mounties in the off-season and the game gained an extra edge as a consequence.

Sydney University also kept up the pressure and maintained their good form under former Rockdale and Sutherland striker Stewart Porter with a comfortable 3-1 win over a luckless Auburn on campus.

Mark Williamson struck twice inside the first ten minutes with Rob Smithies adding a third, ten minutes before the break.

A better organised Auburn United managed to pull a goal back three minutes after the restart from their player, An, but could not bridge the gap any further.

PROGRESSIVE SCORERS:
6 Rob Smithies (Sydney Uni),
5 Daniel Mittiga (Hills United),
4 Patrick Suriano (Mount Pritchard),
4 Jarrod Nash (Ryde City),
4 Tim Stratford (Ryde),
4 Osvaldo El Ali (Illawarra Lions),
4 Mark Williamson (Sydney University),
3 Stephen Pirie (Mount Pritchard),
3 Greg Baldock (Belmore),
2 Julian Miller (Hills United),
2 Tony Alilovic (Hurstville),
2 Michael 'Max' Severino (Mt Pritchard),
2 Jimmy Corbo (Belmore),
2 Fred Umlil (Sydney University),
2 Oliver Vrckovski (Illawarra Lions),
2 Mark Rooke (Bathurst),

SUPER SOCCER'S NSL BIG MATCH REPORT

Miller allows Spirit to escape

By Ted Simmons

NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
PARRAMATTA POWER 0

A 10-man Northern Spirit team escaped with a point in a lacklustre scoreless draw against Parramatta at North Sydney Oval - but only because the Power's Joe Miller forgot his scoring boots.

Miller, a former Scottish first division player, had three great scoring chances but his attempts were blocked on each occasion.

"Miller could have done better with his couple of chances," agreed Parramatta coach David Mitchell.

"I thought we played well and we had five teenagers on the park in the second half who were being blooded for next season."

The match had few scoring opportunities with both teams unable to convert their final passes when within goal range

But Parramatta had the greater effort when in attack and only the sterling work by Spirit keeper Paul Henderson and defenders Michael Cunico and Noel Spencer, kept the Power out.

The home team lost midfielder Scott Thomas 10 minutes into the second half when he was given his second yellow card after a hard tackle on Parramatta's Nick Orlic.

"Thomas deserved his sendoff and only has himself to blame," Northern Spirit coach Mick Hickman said.

But Hickman was pleased with the effort by his team, which has not won at home since mid-December and said it displayed more work ethic and was getting better.

It was the fifth scoreless draw for the Spirit and their main opportunities came late in the second half when Daniel Watkins replaced ineffective striker Ben Burgess.

Watkins fired a series of shots from 25m which tested young Parramatta keeper Liam Reddy. The first chance in the game did not arrive until the 20th minute when Parramatta's Matt Thompson got his leg to a cross from Steve Berry, forcing Henderson to tip the ball away for a corner.

Miller, just before halftime, hammered a swerving shot across the face of the goal with Henderson at full stretch to hold the ball.

Miller could have won the match in the 65th minute when he was left unmarked to the left of the goal area and pounced on a loose ball but took two touches to control it, allowing Henderson to move out of his goal and smother the shot.

The Parramatta attack was again thwarted in the 79th minute when substitute Brendon Santalab ran through the defence, but powered his left-foot drive onto the crossbar with the ball rebounding into play and being cleared by the Power defence.

Northern Spirit 0
Parramatta Power 0

Venue: North Sydney Oval
Referee: Con Diomis
Crowd: 2,104
Northern Spirit: 20 Paul Henderson (gk) 2 Michael Cunico 4 Matthew Bingley 6 Scott Thomas 8 Robert Enes 9 Alex Moreira 12 Ben Burgess (-69') 14 Noel Spencer 15 Tony Perinich (-75') 25 Craig Foster 27 Stuart Howson Substitutes: 3 Matthew Langdon 18 Daniel Watkins (+69') 28 Matthew Hunter (+75') 1 John Perosh (gk)
Parramatta Power: 24 Liam Reddy 2 David Barrett 3 Ahmad Elrich (-69') 4 Nick Orlic 5 Alex Tobin 9 Joe Miller (-77') 11 Steve Berry (-73') 12 Damien Brown 13 Milan Blagojevic 14 Matthew Thompson 26 Luke Roodenburg Substitutes: 7 Steve Eagleton (+77') 16 Michael Brown (+73') 17 Brendan Santalab (+69') 1 Andrew Crews (gk)
Cautions: N Spencer (NS) 44', S Thomas (NS) 53', A Tobin (PP) 58'
Red Cards: S Thomas (NS) 55'

SUPER SOCCER'S NSL BIG MATCH REPORT

Little John closes the door on United's finals hopes with dazzling double

By Ted Simmons

SYDNEY UNITED 0
NEWCASTLE UNITED 3

A STRIKING double by John Buonavoglia and a season first by Peter Tsekenis gave Newcastle a comfortable 3-0 win and closed the door on Sydney United's National Soccer League finals chances.

The busy Buonavoglia pushed his 1.57metre body at frantic pace around the field and forced United out of its usual calm defensive pattern.

It was the first win against United in Sydney for Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey and effectively ended United's faint mathematical chance of making the semi-finals.

"John works hard and is very sharp but he's not had much service this season," Sterrey said.

"The scoreline really flattered us because we took the foot off the accelerator in the second half and gave them a sniff."

Nothing went right for United and its disappointed home crowd found only one occasion to cheer when substitute Zlatko Arambasic headed the ball against the goal post in the 80th minute.

United coach Velimir Kupresak said a first half penalty changed the game despite his team looking flat.

"It was a soft penalty but the way we're playing at the moment we don't deserve to be in the Top Six," he said.

Buonavoglia, probably the smallest striker in the league, made up for his lack of height with ball control and non-stop aggression.

He forced the opening goal with his persistence when he picked up a left side pass from Glenn Sprod but his cross was hand locked by United defender Elvis Olic.

Buonavoglia then stepped up to convert his third penalty and seventh goal for the season.

He added the second to his tally for the day six minutes from time.

Tsekenis briefly switched from his defensive position to become an attacker in the 52nd and promptly scored his first goal for the season.

He rose high in the penalty area to head a corner from Vasko Trpcevski to give Newcastle a 2-0 buffer.

Newcastle had the better of the opening half but found itself pushed back by a more determined United when the second session began.

Tom Pondeljak, Ante Deur and Commins Menapi regularly took the ball into the Newcastle danger zone but couldn't find a gap in the visitors' defence.

Kupresak replaced striker Francis Awaritefe with Arambasic who put more spark into the United attack but had little support in the final approach.

Sterrey hopes to know his future at Newcastle later this week but has already sought an overseas position as assistant national coach in Singapore.

"I don't know where I'll be next year but it's good to see the team finishing on a bright note," he said.

Sydney United 0 Newcastle United 3 (J Buonavoglia 34' (pen), 85', P Tsekenis 51')
Cautions: T Palapanis (SU) 6', T Pondeljak (SU) 34', D McBreen (NU) 55', M Wilson (NU) 81'
Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre Referee: Matthew Breeze Crowd: 2,638
Sydney United: 1 Brett Hughes (gk) 2 Elvis Olic 10 Nahuel Arrarte (-67') 11 Tom Pondeljak 12 Tom Maric 13 Ante Deur 16 Commins Menapi 17 Francis Awaritefe (-60') 18 Goran Talevski 21 Terry Palapanis (-44') 24 Milan Bosnar Substitutes 9 Zlatko Arambasic (+60') 14 Kain Rastall (+67') 29 Matthew Clowes (+44') 20 Steve Tolios (gk)
Newcastle: 1 Bob Catlin (gk) 3 Andrew Roberts 4 Chris Zoricich 5 Todd McManus 6 Glenn Sprod 7 Travis Dodd (-60') 10 John Buonavoglia 11 Peter Tsekenis 16 Vasko Trpcevski (-75') 19 Daniel McBreen 21 Peter Juchniewicz (-32') Substitutes 8 Mark Wilson (+32') 12 Chad Mansley (+75') 18 Andrew Harper (+60') 20 Bradley Swancott (gk)

JOHN BUONAVOGLIA: his double strike helped to sink Sydney United

Glory hang onto second

by Joe Smith

PERTH GLORY 1
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0

PERTH Glory kept its hopes of a home NSL final alive with a 1-0 victory over the Melbourne Knights at Perth Oval.

The victory kept Perth in second place on the ladder but they could slip to third if Wollongong were to make up the five goal differential over Eastern Pride should their postponed match be rescheduled.

The Glory broke the deadlock in the 23rd minute through Bobby Despotovski when a Jason Petkovic clearance kick sailed over the midfield and left the league's leading scorer and Nick Mrdja with just two defenders to beat.

Mrdja cleverly allowed Despotovski to get onside before pushing the ball into his path and leaving him to outpace the defence and slam the ball high into the top of the net.

Mrdja was in the side replacing veteran striker Alistair Edwards who was a late withdrawal with a neck injury and the Glory lost nothing with his inclusion as the young striker continuously troubled the Knights' defence.

At the 73rd minute mark he was on the spot to steer a Jamie Harnwell header into the back of the net.

However, the goal was disallowed by referee Simon Micallef who deemed Harnwell had infringed as he soared to meet the corner kick by Socceroo Kasey Wehrman.

The Knights had a prime opportunity to level in the 32nd minute when Joel Porter broke free at the half way mark and streamed down the left flank with Ljubo Milicevic in hot pursuit.

Milicevic, who has stamped himself as one of Australia's premiere young defenders with the Young Socceroos this season, closed at the edge of the square.

His pressure combined with the rapidly advancing figure of Petkovic was enough to send Porter's strike across the face of goal and harmlessly out of play.

Petkovic was challenged twice late in the game but was equal to the task with clean saves.

Perth Glory 1 (B Despotovski 23')
Melbourne Knights 0
Cautions: B Maloney (PG) 28', J Porter (MK) 46', A Kiratzoglou (MK) 48', L Acevski (MK) 53', J Rajher (MK) 72', G Naven (PG) 82', C Deans (PG) 93'
Venue: Perth Oval
Referee: Simon Micallef
Crowd: 13,170
Perth Glory: 1 Jason Petkovic (gk) 3 Jamie Harnwell 4 Ljubo Milicevic 6 Gareth Naven 8 Brad Maloney (-69') 10 Bobby Despotovski 11 Kasey Wehrman 15 Edgar Aldrighi Junior 17 Gary Faria 23 Craig Deans 26 Nick Mrdja (-88') Substitutes: 2 Robert Trajkovski 5 Vinko Buljubasic (+88') 19 John Carbone (+69') 30 Tommi Tomich (gk)
Melbourne Knights: 20 Lupce Acevski (gk) 2 Daniel Vasilevski 3 Rodrigo Vargas 4 Sasa Ognenovski 5 Jason Vukadin 9 Joel Porter 16 Alex Kiratzoglou 18 Andy Vargas 22 Antonio Da Costa (-85') 26 Andrew Marth 27 Ivan Jolic (-59') Substitutes: 6 Joey Rajher (+59') 8 Dragi Nastevski 19 Anthony Pelikan (+85') 1 Martin John (gk)

SUPER SOCCER'S NSL BIG MATCH REPORT

Strikers and Harris land a Forceful blow

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 2
BRISBANE STRIKERS 2

BRISBANE midfielder Jeromy Harris has dented Adelaide City's aspirations for a 12th straight finals appearance, his two second half goals snatching the visitors a 2-2 draw at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The Force, aiming for their 12 straight finals appearance, had looked in complete charge with a 2-0 half-time lead, before Harris scored in the 63rd and 75th minutes as Brisbane recovered from a listless first half performance.

Adelaide City now trails sixth-placed Melbourne Knights by three points and considerable goal difference with three matches to play.

The Strikers made the second-half revival without regular goalkeeper Daniel Duke, who injured his knee shortly before half-time and was replaced by Peter Dwyer, more used to playing at the other end of the field, at the interval.

Adelaide controlled the game throughout the first half, setting up a huge number of promising scoring chances, while Adelaide goalkeeper Adrian Cagalj was a virtual spectator before the interval.

Two bookings gave Adelaide close-range shots early in the match, Claudio Pelosi missing with a left-footer from just outside the penalty area with the first in the 11th minute.

Ante Kovacevic missed in the 16th from inside the area after Duke was booked for holding onto the ball for longer than six seconds.

Cagalj was called into action for the first time in the 21st minute to punch away a long ball, but the Force was straight back into attack with Pelosi scoring with a simple header in the 29th.

Pelosi was pinpointed in a crowded box with a looping cross from the right flank by Gianlua Lagati, who constantly put the Brisbane attack under pressure in an impressive first half showing.

A minute later Louis Brain ensured Adelaide's first-half dominance was reflected on the scoreboard, making it 2-0 with another header, after fellow teenager Lucas Pantelis set him up from a corner kick.

But after an inept first-half performance, the Strikers showed impressive spirit after the break to constantly pressure Adelaide, with Harris scoring the first goal from a close range header from the left side.

An Adelaide defensive handball gave Harris a penalty shot in the 75th minute, which he slammed into the left side of the net to claim the draw for the visitors.

And the tall midfielder went close to scoring a hat trick and snatching an unlikely victory, when a late long-range shot narrowly cleared the crossbar.

Adelaide City Force 2 (C Pelosi 29', L Brain 30')
Brisbane Strikers 2 (J Harris 64', 75')
Cautions: A Davidson (BS) 11' Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Referee: Gerry Connolly
Crowd: 3,032
Adelaide City Force: 1 Adrian Cagalj (gk) 2 Gianluca Lagati 4 Ante Kovacevic 6 Louis Brain 8 Carl Veart 12 Scott Tunbridge 13 Kristian Rees 15 Lucas Pantelis 16 David Terminello (-79') 18 Ivan Karlovic 19 Claudio Pelosi Substitutes: 7 Kosta Salapasidis 14 Aaron Goulding 17 Mario Karlovic (+79') 20 Daniel Godley (gk)
Brisbane Strikers: 1 Daniel Duke (gk) (-46') 2 Daniel Dreger 4 Jon McKain 8 Adam Webber (-81') 9 Paul Foster (-62') 12 David Pilic 13 Stuart McLaren 15 Andrew Davidson 17 Jeromy Harris 23 Chay Hews 24 Peter Buljan Substitutes: 5 Matthew Bell (+62') 11 Peter Dwyer (+46') 16 Shane Smeltz (+81')

BRISBANE STRIKER'S Andrew Davidson

Cosmos end the Kingz's hopes

KINGZ FC 2
CANBERRA COSMOS 3

The Football Kingz's faint hopes of reaching the NSL finals have been extinguished, the New Zealanders defeated 3-2 by Canberra Cosmos at a soggy Ericsson Stadium.

Errors created by a nervous Kingz team gifted Canberra two early goals and their later winner.

Nine minutes into the game, Paul Ivanic strolled onto a long pass out from defence after the Kingz had lost the ball, to be in the clear with only Kingz keeper Julio Cuello to beat.

Ivanic kept calm and coolly slotted home to give Canberra the lead.

Things got worse for the Kingz 11 minutes later when a seemingly harmless long-range shot from Canberra's Daniel Aliffi bounced just in front of Cuello.

He made a hash of getting his body behind the ball and instead fumbled it into his own net.

Kingz finally sparked into life on the half hour.

Che Bunce headed over an Arran Lines free-kick and a minute later player-coach Wynton Rufer dragged his side back into the match.

After a battling Andy Bluhm won the ball for the Kingz on the right wing he played Jonathan Perry clear.

He swung in a perfect cross for Rufer to tap in.

A minute later, Denis Ibrahim squandered a great chance to draw the Kingz level, scuffing his shot wide after more impressive lead-up work from Lines.

After further half chances to Rufer, Ibrahim and Bunce, it was Lines who was once more the provider of good things for the Kingz.

Enjoying the freedom of the left wing, he crossed to the far post where an unmarked Jonathan Perry controlled the ball, then slammed home an unstoppable shot past Canberra keeper Anthony Giannasca.

Turning level at halftime when they could easily have been two down, the Kingz were quick to try to exploit their good fortune.

On 50 minutes Rufer should have put them ahead, but great work by Giannasca kept out his header from a Perry cross and Rufer's follow-up shot.

By now the Kingz were dominating territory and possession, and required only patience against a battling Canberra side which wasn't giving up without a fight.

A Kingz error in the 83rd minute gifted Canberra the game.

A cross field pass was intercepted by Jon Angelucci, who played a nice pass to Con Anthopolous, who in turn tucked the ball home at Cuello's near post.

Kingz FC 2 (W Rufer 33', J Perry 47')
Canberra Cosmos 3 (P Ivanic 9', D Aliffi 22', C Anthopoulos 84')
Cautions: C Bunce (AK) 36', A Lines (AK) 37', H Ngata (AK) 46', J Angelucci (CC) 49', D Arranz (CC) 68', A Castro (CC) 74'
Venue: Ericsson Stadium
Referee: Craig Zetter
Crowd: 6,941
Kingz FC: 1 Julio Cuello (gk) 2 Che Bunce 3 Aaran Lines 5 Jonathon Perry 7 Wynton Rufer 10 Andreas Bluhm 11 Dennis Ibrahim 12 Heremaia Ngata (-69') 18 Michael Cartwright (-81') 26 Sean Douglas 30 Mark Burton (-69') Substitutes: 4 Levent Osman (+81') 8 Gerard Davis (+69') 9 Paul Urlovic (+69') 20 Chris Marsh (gk)
Canberra Cosmos: 30 Anthony Giannasca (gk) 2 Con Anthopoulos 4 Andrew Ravanello 9 Alex Castro 10 Jon Angelucci 11 David Arranz 12 Milton Cortes 17 Robbie Hooker 19 Hiroshi Miyazawa 21 Daniel Aliffi 22 Paul Ivanic (-46') Substitutes:3 Toplica Popovich (+46') 5 Nicholas Purdue 16 Ilija Prenzoski 1 Angelo Konstantinou (gk)

SUPER SOCCER'S NSWSL BIG MATCH REPORT

Macarthur Rams and Bankstown Lions in arm wrestle

By David Lowndes

MACARTHUR RAMS 1
BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 0

IN A tight absorbing battle it was hardly surprising that a penalty decided the issue with the home side showing that they can match it with the best and beat them.

In a tough physical but often fiery encounter the home side managed to hold off a fast finishing Lions team in the last 10 minutes of the game.

Unfortunately for the visitors the ball could not find it's way over the line and they went home empty handed.

Macarthur Rams played host to Bankstown City Lions on a crisp Easter Saturday at Lynwood park.

Only two places separated the teams on the ladder, so there was an air of expectancy from both.

The Rams were keen to avenge last week's loss to Fraser Park and apart from a couple of opening attacks by the visitors it was the home team with the first goal attempt on four minutes after a long range shot from defender David Maude that was easily dealt with by the Bankstown keeper.

Goce Trposki started to make life interesting for the Macarthur defence however they held their own and were never troubled.

This early part of the game also saw some spirited midfield exchanges resulting in the first caution of the game to the Rams robust striker Eric Williams.

Macarthur were now primed for battle and almost opened the scoring after 10 minutes with a cracking strike against the right hand post from Greg King with the keeper beaten.

The Rams were gaining in confidence the longer the half went on and they were unlucky not to have at least three goals in the first 20 minutes after further strikes at goal.

They were not giving the visitors any piece and were a constant source of frustration for the Lions who also found the last touch in their attacking movement's falling by the wayside. This frustration boiled over and in the latter part of the first half the referee had his hands full keeping matters in hand.

It came as no surprise that Bankstown received their first caution on 22 minutes after an over zealous challenge by their central defender Marcos Osorez. The last 10 minutes of the first half though saw the ill tempered challenges abate somewhat and exciting play being reintroduced to the game.

Both teams created chances for themselves, the closest on 37 minutes when, after a great charge downfield by Rams midfielder Gary Attard, he found captain Martin Bourke out wide on the left, his curling shot seeing the keeper fully extended, tipping the ball over the bar. An absorbing if not at times spiteful first half sent the teams to the interval at 0-0.

The undisciplined play of the first half continued in the opening minutes of the second. Yellow cards were handed out to both teams, however this opening second period also saw the only goal of the game after 57 minutes.

A penalty was given after the Bankstown keeper dropped a high ball and then proceeded to hold back the Rams striker from attempting a shot on goal. Eric Williams calmly slotted the ball home to give his side a deserved lead.

In extra time Bankstown blasted two shots just over the bar from close range and were desperately unlucky when shot hit the underside of the crossbar with everyone except the goal line beaten and the ball landing back in the field of play.

Subsequent protests by the visitors failed to sway the referee and Macarthur survived the onslaught to come away deserved victors one goal to nil.

"I thought we should have been three nil up after the opening 25 minutes with the chances we had," said Rams coach Hugh McCrory. "Even though we didn't put them away we continued to battle hard. Having said that, they were very unlucky right toward the end.

"Overall I was pleased with the end result even though we should have put away at least four or five goals".

Macarthur Rams 1 (Williams Pen 57m) Bankstown City Lions 0
Ground: Lynwood Park
Referee: Vic Gauci
Attendance: 413
Macarthur Rams: Taylor, Horne, Kirkman, Maude, Judge, Bourke, Harrison, King, Williams, Newell (Babington 79m), Attard (Younan 79m), Cautions: Williams 7m, Harrison 41m, Bourke 50m, Horne 53m, Newell 68m
Bankstown City Lions: Josevski, Yildiz, Raeburn, Osorez, Grozdanovski, R Issa (Trpkoski 75m), G Issa (MacDonald 45m), Nouh (Shrimpton 85m), Lozevski, Trposki, Kanaan, Cautions: Osorez 22m, Yildiz 38m, Grozdanovski 53m, Raeburn 55m, Josevski 56m

SUPER SOCCER'S NSWSL BIG MATCH REPORT

SIX GOAL THRILLER AT ILENDEN

BY Mendo Cklamovski

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 3
FAIRFIELD BULLS 3

ROCKDALE City Suns were keen to impress at home in front of a bumper Easter crowd, of over 800, in the battle of two of the fancied clubs.

Fairfield Bulls were showing off their new signings Paul Dee (from Blacktown) and Stewart Van Bentum (from Bonnyrigg) while the Suns were determined to maintain their unbeaten start to the season.

It was the visitors Fairfield who started off with the advantage as they tried to muscle the Rockdale City playmakers.

It appeared to work as the Bulls succeeded in getting the first goal in the 8th minute when Ben Green made a break beating the defence and then advancing keeper Amir Ajanovic with a clever chip from just inside the penalty area.

The Bulls controlled most of the first 20 minutes as Rockdale gained their composure and started to fight back.

Their fight-back resulted in the equaliser on 24 minutes when Marko Vuckovic crossed from the right for Spase Najdoski to hit a volley that was handled in the area by Adam Mammoliti.

A penalty was awarded by referee Nick Asargiotis, and Leo Carle stepped up to clinically put the ball away sending the keeper the wrong way putting his shot low on the right.

Rockdale City pushed on from there and had midfielder Nabil Codmani go close with a diving header following a Bill Petrovski free kick in the 37th minute while Leo Carle had a glorious opportunity just before half-time when he sent his shot wide after a scramble in front of goal.

Both teams had to settle for a 1-1 score-line at half-time.

In the 59th minute, against the run of play, Marc Hoenselaars got the Bulls in front again following a mix-up in the Rockdale defence.

His shot eventually was deflected in off a defender after an initial save by Ajanovic.

This goal seemed to lift the Suns who went on the hunt for another equaliser.

Bill Petrovski, on one of his typical runs, came close before shooting over on 61 minutes while Saso Boskovski had his shot smothered in the 72nd minute.

Striker Anthony Adamo was brought on for midfielder Mirko Jovanov to spark things up and this he did by making a break down the right before shooting at goal in the 75th minute.

While his shot was saved by the Bulls keeper Frank Mikuletic the rebound fell to Najdoski to turn and shoot beating the keeper from close range.

The Bulls almost struck back within minutes when Marc Hoensealaars broke through only to see defender Ghenadie Costiuc clear as he was about to shoot.

Codmani and Carle both had chances to score as Rockdale went on the hunt for a win.

Najdoski made way for striker Peter Cklamovski as the Suns pushed forward and almost had an immediate impact when he had a good move that resulted in Adamo rushing his shot.

It was left for the impressive Carle to put the Suns in the lead after being brought down on the edge of the penalty [illegible]

He took the free kick and curled his left footed shot right in the far reaches of the top right hand corner to send his team-mates and the crowd into a frenzy in the 89th minute.

However the action was not over yet.

In injury time Fairfield rode their luck when Hoenselaars, who looked off-side broke through the defence before being knocked down by Ajanovic as he tried to clear the ball outside hie area.

The referee sent the keeper off as he felt it was a goalscoring opportunity.

The reserve keeper James Adamo came on and only had enough time to retrieve the ball from his net as Paul Dee scored from the ensuing free kick.

The ball went around the wall before going in off the right upright to give the entertaining match a scoreline of 3-3.

While the Suns maintained their unbeaten record, the only unbeaten team in a close competition, coach Mile Todoroski was most upset at losing two points again.

While he was happy with the way the team fought back he was disappointed at conceding a goal in injury time in a game his team dominated and played the type of soccer all fans want to see.

Most of the Suns players were also down at seeing the points go while at the other camp the Bulls coach was more than happy with the point following last week's loss.

The Rockdale players minds soon turned to next week's much awaited match against rivals Dulwich Hill where ex-Rockdale coach Bill Pilovski has several ex-Rockdale players at his disposal.

It will no doubt be a hotly contested match with both teams keen on getting the upper hand.

The Rockdale fans while disappointed at the result were happy to see their beloved Suns playing the type of soccer that has all soccer fans talking at the moment.

Ground: Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre
Referee: Nick Asargiotis
Rockdale City 3 (Leo Carle 24m/89m, Spase Najdoski 75m)
Fairfield Bulls 3 (Ben Green 8m, Marc Hoenselaars 59m, Paul Dee 90m)
Attendance: approx. 850
Rockdale City Suns: Ajanovic, Costiuc, Boskovski, Jovanov (A. Adamo 70'), McHardy, Vuckovic (J.Adamo 89'), Petrovski, Najdoski (P. Cklamovski 86'), S Cklamovski, Carle.
SUBS NOT USED: Josevski, Culina. CAUTIONS: Petrovski 53m YC, Ajanovic 89m RC.
Fairfield Bulls: Mikuletic, Dee, Crnokrak, Bourke, Van Bentum, Richardson, Badolato (Cavallaro 90'), Mammoliti (Jacobson HT), Hoenselaars, Green (Darvill 87'), Sharpley.
SUBS NOT USED: Stallard. CAUTIONS: Mammoliti 24m, Richardson 54m.

Two off as Liverpool shock leaders

BY Ben Moring

DULWICH HILL 1
MSC LIVERPOOL 3

MSC Liverpool recorded their first win of the season at the expense of league leaders Dulwich Hill. Liverpool won an incident packed match by 3-1, with all goals coming in the second half.

This match had it all. Two sent off, six cautioned, two missed penalties and four goals.

Dulwich Hill started this match without inspirational trio Eric Hristodoulou, Steve Karavatakis (both injured at training) and Ben Deighan (suspended).

MSC Liverpool came to Arlington Oval without a win, but was determined to make life difficult for the leading team.

The referee showed Liverpool players three cards in the opening nineteen minutes, with one of them being red, the first in the 7th minute to Matthew Harrison for a late tackle; the next shown to Brett Hewit in the 18th minute and Joshua Wells was sent off in the 19th minute after a late challenge on Ali Salim.

But Liverpool was not content with merely spoiling the Dulwich Hill attacks and created chances.

It became increasingly evident that the absence of Karavatakis and Hristodoulou, who have scored five of Hill's nine goals, blunted the home attack.

Their only real chance of the first period came as late as the 39th minute, when the elusive Hussein Jomaa tried an audacious 30-yard first time shot, after a neat swivel.

Liverpool frustrated Dulwich Hill with Edmund Wong receiving a caution in the 29th minute and Salim in first half stoppage-time.

This continued into the second half

Robert Todorovski was booked in the 51st minute for diving.

A minute later and Liverpool were 1-0 up. Momircevski volleyed in from 10-yards after a fine cross from the left.

Simon Turner was the seventh player to enter referee Craig Pearce's book after a crude challenge.

MSC Liverpool doubled their lead in the 65th minute when Green crossed from the right.

Farias fumbled the ball and Hewit was on hand to tap in from three yards.

It was certainly Liverpool's day when they were awarded a penalty in the 69th minute. Momircevski hit his penalty low to the keeper's right, but it was masterfully saved.

However, the rebound was steered in by substitute R. Cicek form 11 yards.

Hussein Jomaa was the second player to be sent off.

His late challenge on Hewit in the 75th minute leveled the number of players on the pitch.

Eight players incurred the wrath of the referee who commented on the match· "It was more about one or two isolated incidents more than a game characterised by dirty conduct."

Ten-man Liverpool was playing with passion, but tiredness may have been responsible for a rare defensive slip-up in the 77th minute.

Sub Navid Varess slid a lovely through ball into Nikolce Kojdovski's path, who drew keeper Adam Confoy, and then slid one under his body.

Dulwich Hill had the chance to get back into the match just eight minutes from time.

Varess saw his shot saved by Confoy, who later fell onto the midfielder.

The referee pointed to the spot, with protests from the MSC players.

However goalkeeper Adam Confoy saved Malcom Bideau's spot kick by diving low to his right.

Liverpool scrambled the ball to safety.

MSC Liverpool had pulled off the upset of the season so far.

Dulwich Hill 1 (A. Salim 77m) MSC Liverpool 3 (Z. Momircevski 52m, B. Hewit 65m, R. Cicek (pen) 70m)
Ground: Arlington Oval Referee: Craig Pearce
Dulwich Hill: D. Farias, E. Wong, M. Dihm, A. Kotevich, G. Kalogeras (S. Turner 42m), P. Apolevski, R. Todorovski (N. Kojdovski 63m), H. Jomaa, M. Bideau, A. Markopoulos (N. Varess 58m), A. Salim
Cautions: E. Wong 29m, A. Salim 45+m, R. Todorovski 51m, S. Turner 57m Sent Off: H. Jomaa 75m
MSC Liverpool: A. Confoy, D. Opsal, T. Spain, P. Moon, S. Zullo, J. Wells, Z. Momircevski, A. Maiorca (J. Corrente 68m), M. Harrison (C. Ortiz 74m), C. Green (R. Cicek 68m), B. Hewit
Cautions: M. Harrison 7m, B. Hewit 18m Sent Off: J. Wells 19m

Hawks hit late barrage

By Greg Stock

HAJDUK WANDERERS 0
STANMORE HAWKS 3

FOR thirty two year defender Mark Abi-Arrage, it was an afternoon he'd rather forget.

From a seat in the grandstand, Abi-Arrage could do little but shake his head as he watched his side capitulate to a late Stanmore Hawks barrage 3-0 at Hajduk Stadium.

A lapse in concentration in the 40th minute had cost him his spot, when he crudely body checked Hawks midfielder Mario Rositano on the far touchline.

On advice from the linesman, referee Nick Conditsis had no hesitation in sending Abi-Arrage for an early shower, and with him went the hopes of his side.

As their skipper dejectedly looked on, Hajduk were a shadow of their usual attacking selves, in the second stanza.

Left alone up front to chase the game, ex-Coasties striker Rod Hutchinson was a pocket dynamo.

But his long ranger performance went virtually unnoticed as the Hawks eventually overpowered the home side with two late second half goals.

Adrian Lara capped off his best showing for the season thus far in posting two of his sides three goals.

His non stop running in the heart of Stanmore's midfield was a highlight for the large vocal crowd which basked in the beautiful sunshine at Hajduk Stadium.

His first effort in the 40th minute came after Wanderers defender Camilleri had conceded a freekick just outside the box, after a rough challenge on Rod Hutchinson.

Stepping up for the free kick, Lara sent what can only be described as a 'worm burner' around the wall and beyond the diving Luke Martin into the back of the net.

His first was unusual but his second in the 84th minute, was a gem. A lob over a tiring Hajduk defence by substitute Neil Philippou, saw Lara race onto the ball and beat the advancing goalkeeper Luke Martin to send his shot powering into the back of the net.

Philippou himself capped off a strong performance when he manage to get on the end of a Steve Liavas pass just three minutes short of time.

His first time volley from just outside the penalty box was a classy effort, as he again left Hajduk goalkeeper Luke Martin clutching at thin air, with the ball nestled neatly in the net.

Minus ex-Derby County midfielder Eddie Briscoe, Stanmore showed they can play some good attacking football, a thought not lost on their coach George Lazarou.

"This was one game we wanted to win," said Lazarou.

"Hajduk had beaten us 4-1 in the trials and we wanted to show them that we too can play attacking [illegible]

"We soaked up a lot of pressure in the first half and after we scored first and Abi-Arrage was sent off, we were able to go on with the job.

"I'm proud of my boys for the way in which they continued to press in the second half and I felt we got a good reward for our efforts."

Wanderers coach Phil Pavela blamed the loss on his side's inability to score goals.

"Tm just totally disappointed," he said after the match.

"We are again struggling in front of goals. You don't put the ball in the back of the net, you don't win football games, it's as simple as that.

"We missed our chances and Stanmore took theirs. They deserved the three points we didn't."

For Abi-Arrage, he will again be watching his side from the grandstand at St. George Stadium when Hajduk clash with the Hurstville City Minotaurs, next Sunday after[illegible]

With Jay Anderson and former Marconi midfielder Mario Van Cuylenburg playing under 21s last week, Phil Pavela will be looking to make some changes to a side struggling in offence.

"Joe Badrov and Rick Giometti will be back from suspension while (Jay) Anderson and Mario (Van Cuylenburg) will also come into calculations,"

"It's going to be tough against Hurstville but we'll have a week to regroup and come out fighting again."

Hajduk Wanderers 0 Stanmore Hawks 3 (A.Lara 40' 84' Philippou 87')
Venue: Hajduk Stadium, St. Johns Park.
Cautions : Camielleri (hw) 40' Lara (sh) 54' Red Card : Abi-Arrage (hw) 41'
Referee : Nick Conditsis
Hajduk Wanderers : 1.Luke Martin, 4.Darren Camilleri, 5.Mark Abi-Arrage, 7.Jack Costello, 8.J.J.Ellul (15.Adrian MAcerola 63'), 9.Jason Vella (17.Sasha Talevski 67'), 10.Trent Worrell, 11.Stephen Scotti, 12. Rod Hutchinson, 14.Brendan Salemah, 18.Warren Hayward (3.Tim Gardiner 75'); Coach : Phil Pavela.
Stanmore Hawks : 1.Peter Spathis, 2.Maurice Soler, 3.Shayne Borg, 4.Damien Shepherd (3.John Theodoropoulos 46'), 7.Peter Kypreos, 9.Steve Liavas, 12.Peter Antonopoulos (18.Neil Phillipou 55'),14. Adrian Lara, 15.Steve Kartambis, 19.Max Sevares, 21.Mario Rositano; Coach : George Lazarou.

SUPER SOCCER'S NSWSL BIG MATCH REPORT

Price seals AC winning feeling

By David Lowndes

AC UNITED 2
HUSTVILLE CITY 0

AC United finally discovered that winning feeling with a fine win against a Hurstville team that the previous week had ended Manly Warringah's unbeaten run.

The opening exchanges saw the visitors apply early pressure with lively striker Robert Grim prominent.

The home side however were determined to put the disappointments of the previous weeks behind them and took the game right up to City.

Some fine counter attacking moves saw United have their first crack at goal after three minutes.

Solid challenges were the order of the day and referee Greg Leverton had to stamp his authority early to ensure the fast free flowing match that developed.

United had an early setback when the experienced Gordon Sutherland went off after only six minutes of the half with an injury, however this only served to spur the home side on.

United where starting to belie their position at the foot of the table to take the game right up to Hurstville with young midfielder Maytham Abdal, starting only his second top grade game, showing maturity beyond his years against the likes of the Kladis brothers from City.

It was this infectious enthusiasm that saw the home side open the scoring in the 20th minute after a free kick from wide out on the left found it's way into the six yard area for dynamic striker Alex Araujo to slot the ball home.

The last ten minutes of the first half saw both teams create chances with Hurstville free kick specialist Michael Kladis, trying a repeat of his effort the week before, seeing his shot go inches over the crossbar.

United went to the break with confidence that had been growing throughout the first half and it was this renewed confidence that saw striker Menos Bobo shoot just wide minutes after the resumption.

AC club captain Dominec Oliverio was introduced into the game early in the second half to provide a steadying influence to the young United defence.

Hurstville were starting to attack United from all directions and in prolonged attacking periods the home sides resolute defence was put fully to the test.

United though decided that the best form of defence was to attack and came up with some great raids of their own and were unlucky not to add to their total with only the woodwork and ever reliable Minotaurs keeper Stacey Alogdellis getting in their way.

City made a couple of substitutions to try and turn things around however there was no way to the United goal, the final touch deserting the visitors on numerous occasions.

The game was now balanced on a knife's edge until the 86th minute when young United replacement Kris Holbrook fed a lovely wide ball to the rampaging Ben Price who outsprinted the visitors defence down the right hand wing to emphatically beat the advancing City keeper with a hard low sheet which found it's way into the bottom left hand corner of the goal.

This sent the crowd wild and gave AC United their well deserved first victory of the season and the confidence to go on to bigger and better things.

After the match a delighted coach Paul Carter said: "we decided to put the disappointments of the opening weeks of the season behind us and go back to the basics and try and build a platform from there.

"While no one should get too carried away with the win it does give us the confidence to compete successfully in the competition".

Based on this game United should be champing at the bit to get back on the park in the next round's action where they face the Fraser Park Jets away next Saturday night.

AC United 2 (Araujo 20m, Price 86m) Hurstville City Minotaurs 0
Ground: Abruzzi Field Referee: Greg Leverton Attendance: Est 250
AC United: Fernandez, Grubba (Oliverio 47m), D'Alessandro, Cevenini, Bobo, Araujo (Holbrook 74m), Abdal, McGovern, Price, Vincenzo, Sutherland (Rivera 6m), Cautions: Abdul 68m
Hurstville City Minotaurs: Alogdellis, Nicholas (Pavlakis 64m), Panagakis, S Kalamvokis, S Kladis (Mitakidis 74m), M Kladis, S Kladis, Sarakakis, Bolianitis, Petratos, Grim (Knithakis 76m), Cautions: M Kladis 13m, Petratos 49m

Yuel Ju defies Fraser Park

By James Foggo

MANLY WARRINGAH DOLPHINS 2
FRASER PARK JETS 1

THE Manly Warringah Dolphins have defeated the Fraser Park Jets 2-1 in an exciting game at Cromer Park on Saturday.

In the first half both teams showed great energy, creating many opportunities which were unable to be finished off.

Man of the match, Dolphins sweeper Hong Yuel Ju, was creating havoc for the Jets as he dazzled his opposition with his ability to win and control the ball, whilst consistently being able to toe perfect balls to his front men creating real opportunities.

Sensation Yuel Ju confirmed his dominance in the 36th minute when he fiercely struck a ball 25 metres out from goal that was too good for Jets keeper Angelo Radic, and it thundered into the top right hand side of the net stunning all that were lucky enough to witness.

However, just when the Dolphins were looking on top, a mix up between Dolphins keeper Dean McCreath and his defence, found the keeper to be out of position when Ivo De Jesus pounced on the ball and skillfully could knock it in, in the 40th minute, much to his team's jubilation and the scrambling keeper's dismay.

The goal locking up the scores at 1-1 at the break.

In the second half both teams looked hungry but could not find net. It was not until the 60th minute when a corner kick for the Dolphins was unable to be cleared, and after successive shots found Jets defenders, one ricocheted off Ronald Rothenbuhler and into the net for an own goal taking the score to 2-1.

Both teams continued to create chances but were unable to convert them to goals.

Things got worse for the Jets when substitute Steven McCombe was sent off in the 86th minute leaving his team little chance of finding a goal.

With desperation showing, the Jets gallantly were able to still press the Dolphins defence with one man down, but could not find net and the Dolphins hung on in a nail-biter finish with the scores remaining 2-1.

All in all, it was an exciting game where missed opportunities decided the match.

Manly Warringah coach Gary Van Egmond was understandably happy with his teams performance especially with key player Phil Moss missing he felt that they adapted well without him.

With the majority of his players being between the ages of 19 and 23 in this weeks team, Van Egmond can see a bright future for the Dolphins as the young stars will only get better as the season continues.

Since the NSL season is coming to a close, he feels that Manly Warringah may attract some experienced players that will enhance the success the youthful side further.

Next week the Dolphins will hope to continue their form when they play the Bankstown City Lions at Jensen Park on Sunday.

Meanwhile the Jets will prepare to come up against AC United at Fraser Park.

Manly Warringah 2 (H. Yuel Ju 36m, R. Rothenbuhler (H.G) 60m)
Fraser Park 1 (I. De Jesus 40m)
Ground: Cromer Park Referee: Jonathan Streator Attendance: Est. 300.
Manly Warringah: McCreath, Israel, Yuel Ju, Foster, Griffiths, Townsend, Stubbs-Mills, Beldham (Godwin 93m), Snyder (Wilson 76m), Farria, Antar, Cautions: Griffiths 21m, Antar 41m, Townsend 43m.
Fraser Park: Radic, Canning, Alger, Lombardo (Sevgin 73m), Rothenbuhler, Pullicino, Rosenthal (McCombe 84m), I. De Jesus (Lammert 84m), Burrows, Robertson, Mikoutski, Cautions: Rosenthal 27m, Robertson 57m, De Jesus 63m, Burrows 56m, Pullicino 76m, McCombe 86m (red)

Petratos winner sinks the Dolphins

HURSTVILL E CITY 3
MANLY WARRINGAH 2

HURSTVILLE City Minotaurs defeated the Manly Warringah Dolphins in an enthralling contest grabbing the winner four minutes from full-time.

Hurstville scored the first two goals after Manly enjoyed early superior field position when Nick Bolianitis grabbed a great opportunist's goal, blasting his shot past the keeper and then from a free kick Michael Kladis lifted his shot over the wall to further extend the lead.

The Dolphins were not going to go down without a fight and came back in the second half with a great goal to Adam Snyder and then a Hurstville own goal.

The final 15 minutes saw some fiery moments coupled with some great attacking play and four minutes from the end Hurstville crushed the Dolphins with a fine goal to hard-working forward Evangelos Petratos who chipped the keeper to put the finishing touch to a fantastic game of football. Hurstville City brought Manly Warringah back to earth with a highly entertaining 3-2 victory in front of 250 enthralled fans at St George Stadium.

The opening minutes saw play move to both ends of the park with the full width of the pitch being fully utilised as well. Manly enjoyed better field position and had some early chances with Antonio Farria causing the home side defence some anxious moments down the left wing.

The Dolphins almost opened the scoring through a Hurstville own goal when the defender chested the ball over his own crossbar.

It would not have counted had it gone in as the referee ruled a Dolphin player offside.

The game then settled for a brief time until, against the pattern of the game Hurstville opened the scoring with a fine opportunist's goal from Nick Bolianitis who disposed a Manly defender of the ball and then set sail for goal slamming home the shot from a slight angle giving the stunned Manly keeper no chance at all.

Hurstville then raised the stakes and five minutes later following a professional foul by Dolphin defender Phil Moss, who was shown the red card, scored their second goal. David Beckham impersonator Michael Kladis blasted his shot over the Manly wall and into the top corner of the net.

Manly were now stung into action and almost replied from a six yard free kick in first half stoppage time which saw Hurstville keeper Stacy Alogdellis take the full brunt of the shot flush on his face and then in a semi concussed state slump to the ground next to the post.

The second half began as the first with end to end action and on 57 minutes Dolphins live-wire attacker Adam Snyder opened the visitors account with a fine strike after the ball had been cut back to him from the goal line, leaving the Hurstville keeper, recovered from his first half concussion, no chance.

The crowd were now sensing a Dolphin revival and those thoughts were realised on 76 minutes through an own goal against a Hurstville defender who had the last touch from a shot on the run from Snyder.

At 2-2 the game could have gone either way with the last 15 minutes providing plenty of nervous moments however it was the home crowd reaching for the champagne four minutes from the end when Evangelos Petratos beat the offside trap to chip the keeper and record a great victory.

Hurstville City 3 (Bolianitis 23m, M Kladis 28m, Petratos 86m) Manly Warringah 2 (Snyder 57m, Ogmen o/g 76m)
Ground: St George Stadium Referee: N Asargiotis
Attendance: 250
Hurstville City Minotaurs: Alogdellis, Panagakis (Ogmen 75m), Nicholas, Pavlakis, M Kladis, S Kladis, Sarikakis (S Kalamvokis 57m), Bolianitis, S Kladis, Petratos, Mitakidis (Grim 50m)
Cautions: S Kladis 31m, Nicholas 44m, Kalamvokis 59m, Pavlakis 61m, M Kladis 76m, S Kladis 84m
Manly Warringah: McCreath, Wilson (Antar 25m), Foster, Moss, Ju, Griffiths, Townsend, Stubbs-Mills, Beldham, Farria, Snyder
Cautions: Red Card – Moss 26m

SCOREBOARD

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WORLD CUP
Oceania zone group one qualifiers:
Australia 22 Tonga 0
Scorers: Scott Chipperfield 3, 84, Damian Mori 12, 22, 39, 57, John Aloisi 14, 23, 36, 45, 51, 63, Kevin Muscat 17 pen, 29 pen, 54 pen, 83, Tony Popovic 65, Tony Vidmar 73, David Zdrilic 77, 90, Archie Thompson 79, Con Boutsianis 85
Halftime: 10-0

Samoa 8 American Samoa 0
Scorers: Mexico Lisi Leututu 8og, Dominic Gabriel 36, Richmond Faaisuaso 42, 52, 72, 87, Ben Lemana 58, Junior Michael 63
Halftime: 3-0

Australia 2 Fiji 0
Scorers - Steve Corica 23, Hayden Foxe 81
Halftime: 1-0

Tonga 5 American Samoa 0
Scorers - Lokoua Taufahema 2, 24, 52, Penieli Moa 79pen, Teu Fakava 86
Halftime: 2-0

Australia 11 Samoa 0
Scorers - Aurelio Vidmar 5, 50, David Zdrilic 28, 57, Hayden Foxe 44, Tony Popovic 55, 89, Archie Thompson 75, 78, Scott Chipperfield 76, Philipo Bureta 81og
Halftime: 3-0; Att: 1,500

Fiji 8 Tonga 1
Scorers: Fiji - Jope Namawa Leka 4, Esala Masi 30, 34, 37, 48, 90, Leone Vurukania 56, Valerio Nasema 62
Tonga - Filisione Taufahema 78
Halftime: 4-0; Att: 1,500

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	4	4	0	0	66	0	12
Fiji	4	3	0	1	27	4	9
Tonga	4	2	0	2	7	30	6
Samoa	4	1	0	3	9	18	3
American Samoa	4	0	0	4	0	57	0

Australia meet the winner of group two in a two-leg play-off in June with the winner to play the fifth-placed South American team in a two-leg play-off in November for a place in the 2002 World Cup.

ASIAN ZONE
Iraq 8 Macao 0
Scorers: Husham Muhammed 21, 31, 33, 35, 76, Sabah J'aeer 60, 83, Ahmed Kadhim 87
Halftime: 4-0

Kazakhstan 6 Nepal 0
Scorers: Ashkat Kadukulov 11, Rafael Urazbakhtin 21, Oleg Litvinenko 28, Yevgeniy Lunev 73, Ruslan Baltiyev 75, Ashkat Kadukulov 82pen
Halftime: 3-0

Iraq 9 Nepal 1
Scorers: Iraq - Abdul Wahab Abulheel 6pen, 20pen, Husham Muhammed 15, 59, Habeeb Ja'far 21, Haider Najim 36, Imad Muhammed 56, Ahmed Kadhim 65, 75 Nepal - Nirajan Rayamajhi 25
Halftime : 5-1

Kazakhstan 3 Macao 0
Scorers: Avedeyev Igor 11, Litvinenko Oleg 57, Gorovenko Konstantin 68
Halftime 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iraq	2	2	0	0	17	1	6
Kazakhstan	2	2	0	0	9	0	6
Macao	2	0	0	2	0	11	0
Nepal	2	0	0	2	1	15	0

Next fixtures:
April 16 Macao v Nepal
Iraq v Kazakhstan

ASIAN ZONE
GROUP 8
Brunei 0 United Arab Emirates 12
Scorers: Yasser Salem Saleh Ali 1, 58, 67, 75, 81, Mohammad Omar Ahmed 12, 45, Mohammad Ibrahim Hussain 27, Sabait Kahter Fayel 38, Abdul Salam Jumaa Antar 49, Ali Momin 50og, Fahed Masoud Ali Masoud 90
Halftime: 0-5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UAE	2	1	0	1	12	1	3
Yemen	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
India	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Brunei Darussalam	2	0	0	2	0	17	0

Next match: April 15 - India v Yemen

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE
Perth 1 Melbourne Knights 0
Northern Spirit 0 Parramatta 0
Auckland 2 Canberra 3
Adelaide 2 Brisbane 2
Sydney United 0 Newcastle 3
Postponed: Eastern Pride v Wollongong
To play Wednesday April 18:
Sydney Olympic v South Melbourne

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pt
South Melbourne	26	16	5	3	2	53	19	59
Perth	27	14	7	4	2	66	31	55
Wollongong	26	13	7	4	2	65	35	52
Sydney Olympic	26	14	4	6	2	49	30	52
Marconi	27	10	7	8	2	39	32	43
Melbourne Knights	27	11	6	9	1	52	42	42
Adelaide	27	9	7	9	2	46	47	40
Auckland	27	8	7	10	2	44	42	37
Sydney United	27	8	6	11	2	38	50	36
Canberra	27	8	4	13	2	46	44	34
Parramatta	27	9	3	14	1	37	44	33
Northern Spirit	27	6	8	11	2	35	37	32
Brisbane	27	7	8	11	1	47	50	32
Newcastle	27	5	8	12	2	31	47	29
Eastern Pride	26	3	5	16	2	32	49	0*

(NOTE: Teams awarded 3-0 win for byes.
*Eastern Pride's points have been stripped because of a breach of regulations, subject to appeal)

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION
SUPER LEAGUE:
FIRST GRADE:
Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 (H Ju 36m M Beldham 60m) Fraser Park Jets 1 (I De Jesus 43m)

Macarthur Rams 1 (E Williams) Bankstown City 0

Rockdale City Suns 3 (L Carle 24/89m S Najdoski 75m) Fairfield Bulls 3 (B Green 8m M Hoenselaars 59m P Dee 90m),

Dulwich Hill 1 (A Salim 77m) MSC Liverpool 3 (Z Momircevski 52m B Hewit 55m R Cicek 70m),

Hajduk Wanderers 0 Stanmore Hawks 3 (A Lara 42/89m N Philippou 92m),

AC United 2 (A Araujo 20m B Price 86m) Hurstville City 0.

Super League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dulwich Hill	4	3	0	1	10	7	9
Manly Warringah	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Rockdale City Suns	4	2	2	0	7	5	8
Macarthur Rams	4	2	0	2	7	6	6
Stanmore Hawks	4	2	0	2	5	4	6
H'ville City Minotaurs	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
MSC Liverpool	4	1	2	1	8	10	5
Fairfield Bulls	4	1	1	2	10	10	4
AC United	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Bankstown City Lions	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
Hajduk Wanderers	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Fraser Park	4	1	0	3	7	9	3

GRADE 21:
Manly Warringah 0 Fraser Park Jets 1
Macarthur Rams 1 Bankstown City 0
Rockdale City Suns 2 Fairfield Bulls 3,
Dulwich Hill 1 MSC Liverpool 4,
Hajduk Wanderers 4 Stanmore Hawks 0,
AC United 2 Hurstville City 1.

Under 21s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Macarthur Rams	4	3	1	0	8	3	10
Fairfield Bulls	4	3	0	1	6	4	9
AC United	4	2	2	0	8	5	8
Fraser Park	4	2	2	0	8	6	8
Bankstown City	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Manly Warringah	4	2	1	1	6	2	7
Hajduk Wanderers	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
MSC Liverpool	4	1	1	2	6	5	4
H'ville City Minotaurs	4	1	0	3	3	9	3
Rockdale City Suns	4	0	1	3	8	11	1
Stanmore Hawks	4	0	1	3	5	12	1
Dulwich Hill	4	0	1	3	4	12	1

GRADE 18:
Manly Warringah 6 Fraser Park Jets 0
Macarthur Rams 2 Bankstown City 1
Rockdale City Suns 1 Fairfield Bulls 3,
Dulwich Hill 3 MSC Liverpool 2,
Hajduk Wanderers 1 Stanmore Hawks 3,
AC United 2 Hurstville City 1.

Under 18s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manly Warringah	4	4	0	0	16	0	12
Macarthur Rams	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
AC United	4	2	2	0	5	3	8
Dulwich Hill	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Fairfield Bulls	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Bankstown City	4	2	0	2	9	5	6
MSC Liverpool	4	1	2	1	10	7	5
Stanmore Hawks	4	1	2	1	3	6	5
Fraser Park	4	1	2	1	6	10	5
Rockdale City Suns	4	1	0	3	7	12	3
H'ville City Minotaurs	4	0	0	4	2	11	0
Hajduk Wanderers	4	0	0	4	2	11	0

DIVISION ONE:
FIRST GRADE:
Belmore Hercules 1 (M Percy 78m) Mt Pritchard 1 (J Misic 86m),

Ryde City 0 Hills United 1 (D Mittiga 2m),

Sydney University 3 (M Williamson 7/10m R Smithies 35m) Auburn United 1 (G An 48m),

White City 0 Bathurst '75 2 (M Rooke 10/59m)

Hurstville ZSC 4 (A Pavelic 1m R Babaic 15m A Buntic 55m N Mandic 72m)

Greystanes 1 (S Crawhall 80m)
Illawarra Lions 3 Mt Druitt Town 1

GRADE 21:
Belmore Hercules 2 Mt Pritchard 1
Ryde City 4 Hills United 3
Sydney University 7 Auburn United 0
White City 3 Bathurst '75 1
Hurstville ZSC 5 Greystanes 1
Illawarra Lions 0 Mt Druitt Town 1

GRADE 18:
Belmore Hercules 2 Mt Pritchard 7
Ryde City 5 Hills United 1
Sydney University 5 Auburn United 1
White City 1 Bathurst '75 1
Hurstville ZSC 3 Greystanes 1
Illawarra Lions 1 Mt Druitt Town 2

FEDERATION DISIVION TWO:
FIRST GRADE:
Balmain 4 (M Civili 5m S Barlow 37m W Turpin 57m M Jaffray 68m) Hakoah 2 (G Martin 6m T Sperber 76m Penalty),
Petersham Sydney District 1 (F Chedid 60m) Central Coast Lakers 0,
University of NSW 0 The Wanderers 0,
Camden Tigers 2 (S Beever 3m W Croker 38m) Concord FC 2 (A Pisano 62m C Boutsikakis 75m),
Parramatta City 3 (A Alexander 38m L Casha 47m N Groake 82m) Nepean Association 1 (A Quinnell 52m),
Western Rage 1 (R Richards 36m) Western Sydney Lions 1 (E Adam 20m).

SCOREBOARD

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GRADE 21:
Balmain 0 Hakoah 5,
Petersham Sydney District 3 Central Coast Lakers 0,
University of NSW 0 The Wanderers 2,
Camden Tigers 4 Concord FC 3,
Parramatta City 1 Nepean Association 2,
Western Rage 3 Western Sydney Lions 2.

GRADE 18:
Balmain 4 Hakoah 2,
Petersham Sydney District 0 Central Coast Lakers 10,
University of NSW 5 The Wanderers 0,
Camden Tigers 0 Concord FC 2,
Parramatta City 3 Nepean Association 4,
Western Rage 0 Western Sydney Lions 0.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE:
FIRST DIVISION:
NNSW Academy 2 NSW Academy 2

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE:
FIRST GRADE:
Bathurst City Panthers 13 Inter Lions/CSI 0,
Coasties 1 Granville Association 0,
Macarthur Rams 2 UTS 3,
St George Association 3 Petersham Sydney District 2,
UWS Wolves Campbelltown 0 Roselands Raptors 4.
GRADE 19:
Bathurst City Panthers 3 Inter Lions/CSI 0,
Coasties 1 Granville Association 3,
Macarthur Rams 1 UTS 5,
St George Association 4 Petersham Sydney District 1,
UWS Wolves Campbelltown 2 Roselands Raptors 12.

GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE:
GRADE 16:
North West Sydney GYL 1 Campbelltown Macarthur 2

GRADE 14:
North West Sydney GYL 5 Campbelltown Macarthur 0

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE:
GRADE 13:
Manly Warringah 2 Parramatta Eagles 0
Macarthur Rams 2 Marconi Stallions 4
Eastern Suburbs 0 Northern Spirit 7
Wollongong Wolves 1 Sutherland Shire 0
Blacktown City 4 Bankstown City Cubs 1
Fairfield Bulls 0 St George 0
Central Coast Coasties 2 Sydney United 2
Penrith Panthers 0 Canterbury Marrick 1
Sydney Olympic 7 Newcastle United 0
Bonnyrigg 0 Leichhardt Tigers 4

Grade 13s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blacktown City	5	5	0	0	29	2	15
Sydney Olympic	5	5	0	0	14	1	15
Northern Spirit	5	4	0	1	22	2	12
Leichhardt	5	3	2	0	11	2	11
Manly Warringah	5	3	1	1	8	5	10
Central Coast	5	3	1	1	5	5	10
Wollongong Wolves	5	3	0	2	7	8	9
Marconi	5	2	2	1	9	6	8
Bankstown City	5	2	0	3	12	10	6
Sutherland	5	2	0	3	5	4	6
Canterbury	5	2	0	3	5	5	6
Macarthur	5	2	0	3	6	9	6
Parramatta Eagles	5	2	0	3	6	11	6
Sydney United	5	1	2	2	5	9	5
St George	5	1	1	3	3	6	4
Penrith	5	1	1	3	4	10	4
Bonnyrigg	5	1	1	3	5	16	4
Fairfield Bulls	5	1	1	3	3	14	4
Newcastle United	5	0	2	3	4	14	2
Eastern Suburbs	5	0	0	5	2	26	0

GRADE 14:
Manly Warringah 0 Parramatta Eagles 3
Macarthur Rams 0 Marconi Stallions 3
Eastern Suburbs 0 Northern Spirit 8
Wollongong Wolves 2 Sutherland Shire 1
Blacktown City 2 Bankstown City Cubs 0
Fairfield Bulls 0 St George 4
Central Coast Coasties 0 Sydney United 2
Penrith Panthers 3 Canterbury 2
Sydney Olympic 4 Newcastle United 3
Bonnyrigg 3 Leichhardt Tigers 1

Grade 14s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Spirit	5	5	0	0	24	0	15
Blacktown City	5	4	1	0	14	3	13
Sydney Olympic	5	4	0	1	22	9	12
Wollongong Wolves	5	3	1	1	13	5	10
Sydney United	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Marconi	5	3	1	1	11	8	10
Bankstown City	5	3	0	2	9	4	9
Bonnyrigg	5	3	0	2	8	11	9
Parramatta Eagles	5	2	2	1	9	5	8
Newcastle United	5	2	1	2	16	8	7
Sutherland	5	2	1	2	11	8	7
Macarthur	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Penrith	5	1	3	1	7	9	6
Leichhardt	5	2	0	3	5	10	6
St George Soccer	5	1	1	3	6	13	4
Central Coast	5	1	0	4	2	13	3
Manly Warringah	5	1	0	4	2	14	3
Eastern Suburbs	5	1	0	4	3	18	3
Canterbury	5	0	1	4	3	14	1
Fairfield Bulls	5	0	0	5	0	17	0

GRADE 15:
Manly Warringah 2 Parramatta Eagles 0
Macarthur Rams 0 Marconi Stallions 5
Eastern Suburbs 1 Northern Spirit 9
Wollongong Wolves 1 Sutherland Shire 1
Blacktown City 6 Bankstown City Cubs 2
Fairfield Bulls 2 St George 2
Central Coast Coasties 1 Sydney United 2
Penrith Panthers 2 Canterbury 2
Sydney Olympic 3 Newcastle United 1
Bonnyrigg 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0

Grade 15s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Spirit	5	5	0	0	21	2	15
Blacktown City	5	5	0	0	24	6	15
Marconi	5	5	0	0	19	5	15
Sydney United	5	4	1	0	7	1	13
Sydney Olympic	5	3	0	2	9	6	9
Newcastle United	5	3	0	2	7	9	9
Bankstown City	5	2	2	1	12	12	8
Central Coast	5	2	1	2	9	7	7
Parramatta Eagles	5	2	0	3	8	7	6
Manly Warringah	5	2	0	3	7	9	6
Leichhardt	5	2	0	3	5	12	6
Penrith	5	1	2	2	4	6	5
Wollongong Wolves	5	1	2	2	8	11	5
Bonnyrigg	5	1	1	3	8	8	4
Sutherland	5	1	1	3	2	6	4
Fairfield Bulls	5	1	1	3	6	13	4
St George Soccer	5	0	3	2	2	8	3
Macarthur	5	0	3	2	1	7	3
Canterbury	5	0	2	3	4	10	2
Eastern Suburbs	5	0	1	4	7	25	1

GRADE 17:
Manly Warringah 2 Parramatta Eagles 6
Macarthur Rams 0 Marconi Stallions 2
Eastern Suburbs 1 Northern Spirit 3
Wollongong Wolves 2 Sutherland Shire 3
Blacktown City 2 Bankstown City Cubs 1
Fairfield Bulls 1 St George 2
Central Coast Coasties 2 Sydney United 3
Penrith Panthers 1 Canterbury 2
Sydney Olympic 3 Newcastle United 0
Bonnyrigg 0 Leichhardt Tigers 0

Grade 17s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Spirit	5	5	0	0	15	3	15
Parramatta Eagles	5	4	1	0	16	7	13
Sydney Olympic	5	4	0	1	11	6	12
Blacktown City	5	3	1	1	15	7	10
Sydney United	5	3	1	1	12	7	10
Canterbury	5	3	1	1	10	7	10
Bonnyrigg	5	2	3	0	9	5	9
Marconi	5	3	0	2	10	7	9
Sutherland	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Leichhardt	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
St George Soccer	5	2	1	2	7	10	7
Penrith	5	2	0	3	8	8	6
Bankstown City	5	1	2	2	6	6	5
Fairfield Bulls	5	1	1	3	8	10	4
Central Coast	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
Wollongong Wolves	5	1	1	3	5	10	4
Manly Warringah	5	1	1	3	7	13	4
Newcastle United	5	0	1	4	3	10	1
Macarthur	5	0	1	4	4	13	1
Eastern Suburbs	5	0	1	4	4	17	1

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE:
GRADE 13:
AC United 4 Stanmore Hawks 1
Blacktown Assoc 2 Central Coast 1
Ryde City 0 Ku-ring-gai Association 3
Nepean Assoc 3 Hajduk Wanderers 0
Mt Pritchard 1 Hills United 3
Southern Branch 4 Illawarra Lions 0

Grade 13s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southern Branch	5	4	1	0	12	0	13
AC United	5	4	1	0	14	5	13
Nepean Association	5	3	2	0	13	2	11
Blacktown Assoc	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
Hills United	4	2	2	0	7	2	8
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	5	2	1	2	8	7	7
Illawarra Lions	5	2	1	2	8	10	7
Central Coast Lakers	5	1	2	2	7	9	5
Mt Pritchard	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
Stanmore	4	1	0	3	4	13	3
Hajduk Wanderers	5	0	1	4	2	11	1
Ryde City	5	0	0	5	1	14	0

GRADE 14:
AC United 1 Stanmore Hawks 2
Blacktown Assoc 1 Central Coast 1
Ryde City 2 Ku-ring-gai Association 2
Nepean Assoc 1 Hajduk Wanderers 2
Mt Pritchard 0 Hills United 6
Southern Branch 4 Illawarra Lions 0

Grade 14s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southern Branch	5	5	0	0	20	3	15
Hajduk Wanderers	5	4	0	1	9	4	12
Central Coast Lakers	5	3	2	0	10	2	11
Ryde City	5	3	1	1	12	6	10
Stanmore	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Blacktown Assoc	5	2	1	2	5	13	7
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	5	1	2	2	9	6	5
Hills United	4	1	1	2	8	6	4
AC United	5	1	0	4	3	12	3
Mt Pritchard	5	1	0	4	3	16	3
Nepean Association	5	0	2	3	5	10	2
Illawarra Lions	5	0	1	4	2	13	1

GRADE 15:
AC United 4 Stanmore Hawks 1
Blacktown Assoc 3 Central Coast 1
Ryde City 0 Ku-ring-gai Association 1
Nepean Assoc 0 Hajduk Wanderers 1
Mt Pritchard 4 Hills United 1
Southern Branch 1 Illawarra Lions 2

Grade 15s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southern Branch	5	4	0	1	14	5	12
Blacktown Assoc	5	3	1	1	15	6	10
Ku-Ring-Gai	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
AC United	5	3	0	2	11	11	9
Nepean Assoc	5	2	2	1	6	5	8
Illawarra Lions	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Hajduk Wanderers	5	2	1	2	8	11	7
Mt Pritchard	5	1	2	2	8	9	5
Stanmore	4	1	2	1	7	8	5
Central Coast	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
Hills United	4	1	0	3	6	13	3
Ryde City	5	0	0	5	4	14	0

GRADE 16:
AC United 0 Stanmore Hawks 1
Blacktown Assoc 0 Central Coast 2
Ryde City 1 Ku-ring-gai Association 2
Nepean Assoc 2 Hajduk Wanderers 1
Mt Pritchard 1 Hills United 0
Southern Branch 1 Illawarra Lions 0

Grade 16s	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southern Branch	5	4	1	0	8	4	13
Mt Pritchard	5	4	0	1	8	4	12
Central Coast Lakers	5	3	0	2	7	4	9
Stanmore	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
AC United	5	3	0	2	6	6	9
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	5	2	1	2	11	7	7
Hills United	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
Nepean Association	5	2	0	3	3	6	6
Hajduk Wanderers	5	1	1	3	7	9	4
Ryde City	5	1	1	3	7	12	4
Illawarra Lions	5	1	0	4	5	9	3
Blacktown Assoc	5	0	2	3	4	8	2

SUPER CADET LEAGUE:
GRADE 11:
Blacktown City 8 Bankstown City Cubs 0
Fairfield Bulls 2 St George 3
Central Coast Coasties 0 Sydney United 2
Penrith Panthers 0 Canterbury 1
Bonnyrigg 0 Leichhart Tigers 5
Eastern Suburbs 2 Northern Spirit 1
Wollongong Wolves 2 Sutherland Shire 0
Macarthur Rams 1 Marconi Stallions 2
Manly Warringah 2 Parramatta Eagles 0
Hajduk Wanderers 2 Parramatta City 0,
Camden Tigers 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0,
AC United 3 MSC Liverpool 1.

GRADE 12:
Eastern Suburbs 0 Northern Spirit 0
Wollongong Wolves 1 Sutherland Shire 3
Macarthur Rams 0 Marconi Stallions 2
Manly Warringah 0 Parramatta Eagles 0
Blacktown City 4 Bankstown City Cubs 1
Fairfield Bulls 2 St George 1
Central Coast Coasties 1 Sydney United 2
Penrith Panthers 7 Canterbury 0
Bonnyrigg 1 Leichhart Tigers 2

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE:
GRADE 11:
Ryde City 0 Rockdale City Suns 1
Illawarra Lions 2 Hills United 1
Stanmore Hawks 2 Hurstville City 1
Hawkesbury City 1 Mt Pritchard 3
Schofield Scorpions 2 Central Coast 1

GRADE 12:
Ryde City 4 Rockdale City Suns 2
Illawarra Lions 3 Hills United 0
Stanmore Hawks 2 Hurstville City 1
Hawkesbury City 3 Mt Pritchard 2
Schofield Scorpions 2 Central Coast 1
Hajduk Wanderers 4 Parramatta City 2,
Camden Tigers 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0,
AC United 0 MSC Liverpool 2.

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STANMORE HAWKS
Sunday 22nd April
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Games commence at 11.00 am Under 18s,
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